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Vista: March 6, 2014

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Thursday, March 6, 2014



Toreros #00 Chris Anderson drives the lane for a layup during a fastbreak in a game versus BYU. Last Saturday's game versus BYU in front of over 3,800 fans at the JCP was Senior Night for the Toreros where three Torero players were honored in their last home game. The Toreros fell short losing 78-70 falling to 7-11 in WCC play and 16-15 overall during the regular season.

DIEGO IN BRIEFS



Tuition hike

Tuition for the 2014-2015 school year will be raised to \$21,165 per semester, or \$42,330 per year. This will be \$1,430 higher than the 2013-2014 school year.

Concerns about beach life

At a joint meeting of the Interfraternity Council and the Panhellenic Council for Greek life, members of USD administration said that there have been growing concerns among neighbors at Mission Beach about the behavior of students living there. Administration officials cited loud parties and students vomiting on the beach in the middle of the day after a popular daytime event as reasons for the complaints.

AS election run-off

On Thursday the two remaining candidates for AS President will go head-to-head in a run-off election. The two remaining candidates are juniors Sukhpreet Bains and Dominic Pera. Students can vote from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, on the Mysandiego portal.

Around the world: Russia invades Ukraine

Russian troops have invaded Crimea, an autonomous republic within Ukraine. This has sparked one of the largest international crises since 9/11, and has led the international community to condemn Russia's actions. The move comes after the ousting of Ukraine's prime minister and weeks of civil unrest and rioting. The majority of people living within Crimea are ethnic Russians, further complicating the situation.

Fighting against plastic bags

A new state law could ban plastic bags at stores

By Matt Hose
NEWS EDITOR

Plastic bags, long a staple of shopping around the country, could soon become illegal to use at stores across California.

A new ban on single-use plastic shopping bags is making its way through the California state legislature. Nearly 100 cities and counties in the state, including Los Angeles, have banned the use of the bags in retail stores at a local level, according to the San Jose Mercury News. The new law would extend the ban statewide. Esteban del Río, the associate provost for Inclusion and Diversity, said that this move is necessary.

"It's another common-sensical thing that the state really needs to do to help people change their behavior," del Río said.

If passed in the legislature, the bill would take effect for some larger retail stores at the beginning of 2015. As of 2016 it would extend the plastic bag prohibition to smaller convenience stores, liquor stores and grocery stores.

Junior Connor Self believes that this ban will help the mindset of shoppers when they go to make purchases.

"Plastic bags are the epitome of single use disposable goods that permeate our consumer culture," Self said. "By banning bags in stores, this law may force Californians to be more mindful in their consumerism. It causes them to think and do a little planning before heading to the store."

The proposition also requires that retail stores have reusable bags available for purchase by the beginning of 2016. These bags will be reusable for over 100 times. Stores will also be able to sell biodegradable paper bags

for a fee of 10 cents during a sale.

According to Slate Magazine, these "light bag taxes" can help persuade consumers to remember to bring reusable canvas bags when they go shopping. The simple necessity to actively ask for a bag at the store could make people feel guilty for not bringing their own bags. For small items, not automatically being provided with a bag could cause people to hesitate from getting one.

Additionally, del Río said that in economics, once the price of a good hits a certain point, buyers' behavior will change.

"When people have to pay for a bag, they bring their own," del Río said.

Once thrown away, these plastic bags can take 1,000 years

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Drinking age of 21 'saves lives'

By Katie Lange
CONTRIBUTOR

Many students who go abroad face a dilemma upon returning to USD. In most other countries, a drinking age of 18 makes it legal for younger students to drink alcohol abroad. Upon returning to the States, they find themselves unable to drink because of a decades-old federal law that raised the drinking age in the U.S. to 21 years old.

Now, a new study conducted by Boston University and reported by Al Jazeera claims that this federal law "saves lives."

The article explored the mindset of many Americans who believe that because Europeans are exposed to alcohol at a much younger age, they are less likely to abuse the substance.

William DeJong, a public health

professor at Boston University and the creator of the study, said that there was a correlation between the raised drinking age and a decrease in deaths among young drivers since it was changed from 18 to 21.

After the drinking age was raised in 1988, the percentage of deaths of drivers ages 18 to 21 was lowered by around five to nine percent, according to Al Jazeera's account of the study. The study also examined heavy alcohol use among youth. The results showed that alcohol was consumed much more heavily in 35 European nations that in the U.S. by a margin of 36 to 47 percent.

Sophomore Holly Kravetz believes that since the study has shown that the drinking age saved lives, it

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Students challenge tenure law

A new lawsuit by high school students is challenging the tenure laws for lower education.

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"Let's talk about sex"

A tough question for a Roman Catholic university: should sex education be offered on campus?

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Choose your own adventure: Spring Break 2014

Explore exciting options for spring break in San Diego and in your own hometown.

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ARTS AND CULTURE 10-13

"Vagina Monologues" emphasizes women's issues

The monologues came to USD for the first time ever in a production directed by two undergraduate students.

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USD Baseball off to record start

Toreros break the top 25 for the first time this season in preparation for number 13 Oklahoma State.

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NEWS

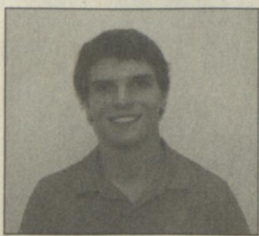
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Finding home

By Matt Hose
NEWS EDITOR

As I write this column, most of my friends from high school are romping through the blocked-off streets of New Orleans, simultaneously making and losing memories as they celebrate Mardi Gras day. Many of them have the entire week off from school, and most are getting together to talk about the old days of making bad decisions and shedding clothes at random times. They post pictures of themselves and friends donned in the traditional purple, green, and gold garb of a city steeped in cultural history.

Last year I felt a twinge of regret as I saw these images floating through my Facebook for the week or so of Mardi Gras parade season. I had left my home where I was born and raised to basically start a new life in California.

Nevertheless, the feeling I have today is far different from my feelings last year during carnival season. I see the pictures of my friends together, and it does not affect me. They laugh, and they definitely share stories of life back in high school. I don't feel much.

I think that I have hit a point in my life that many people at USD can understand, but that a lot of people from New Orleans never get to understand. Many people in my hometown go to college within an hour and a half of New Orleans, and they will start their careers on the Gulf Coast and likely end up living there for their entire lives.

I have grown to accept and love my past and what it has shaped me into as a person, but I have genuinely moved on from my hometown.

I think the word hometown is an important one here, and it is important to differentiate between the word "hometown" and "home."

Is my home the place where I grew up? The place where some of my most lasting opinions were formed and where I spent some of my most formative years? Or is it the place where I live with my friends, where I create new memories and figure out how to live life without my parents?

This past winter break, there didn't seem to be much left for me in New Orleans. I had about three friends that I genuinely felt the need to reconnect with. Otherwise, it was mostly silly-putty faces who came over to my house to reminisce about high school.

Then I got back to San Diego. I signed a year-long lease on an unfurnished apartment. My roommates and I were forced to go out into the city to find all of our own furniture, appliances and supplies. It was difficult, but it really started to make everything feel like home. Each piece of furniture has a story telling how we acquired it.

The year-long lease, which started in January, made me decide to stay in San Diego over the summer and through next semester. San Diego is the place where I am investing all of my time and energy. I take weekend road trips with friends and laugh the whole way. I spend nights talking about politics and trying to figure out what I am doing with my life. I spend weekends at the beach at small hangouts with my friends.

Back in New Orleans, I would go through long periods of idle limbo. I would read a book in four or so days but not get anything out of it. I would have friends over to my house but feel like I had nothing to contribute to the conversation. Many of them had moved on to new lives and new friends at Louisiana State University; I had moved on to a new life in California. Neither one of these is inherently better than the other.

I just believe it is the natural progression to start to differentiate between your "high school" friends and your "college friends."

I can't go back to New Orleans anymore without feeling a pinch of nostalgic sadness, knowing that I will never again have those experiences that shaped me in high school. There is not much left for me out there.

Who knows? In 10 years, once I have graduated from college and likely entered the job market, I may feel the same way about San Diego.

Either way, for now I can know that even if I am missing the week-long cavalcade of Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans — an integral part to my childhood and adolescence — that in San Diego I am making memories that are just as sweet, and perhaps more fitting for who I am now as a person.

Lawsuit challenges tenure in K-12 education

By Mel Georgi
STAFF WRITER

Nine public school students are suing California over its teacher tenure laws in the hopes of changing the ironclad system. The students argue that the current laws protect inadequate teachers and violates the student's rights to a good education.

Teachers in the K-12 public school system would be the ones largely affected by the changes in the tenure laws if the students win their case. The outcome of this lawsuit could also have serious repercussions for the many USD students trying to earn their teaching degree through the School of Leadership and Education Sciences.

The lawsuit hopes to deem five statutes of California's education code unconstitutional. One issue at hand is the current statute that grants permanent employment status to a teacher after 18 months on the job, which many claim is too short of a period. Besides this statute, three more deal with the steps taken to dismiss a teacher and the fifth centralizes around the last-hired, first-hired rule. This seniority system sets it up so that the most recently hired teachers are the first to be cut when layoffs occur.

Those backing the students say this statute especially hurts new teachers who may be talented but are fired early on in their careers due to a seniority system.

A cast of lawyers including Theodore J. Boutrous, who has represented Apple in past lawsuits, is supporting the students.

"They deserve the right to a passionate, effective teacher everyday and I believe it is our public education system's responsibility to deliver that," the lead attorney said.

Those also backing the plaintiffs include Students Matter, a national nonprofit that claims to give voice to the student population in the legal system.

Teacher unions have been in an uproar since the case emerged. They contend that the present laws are in place for a reason.

"Tenure is an amenity, just like salary and vacation, that allows districts to recruit and retain teachers despite harder working conditions, pay that hasn't kept pace and larger class sizes," James M. Finberg, the lawyer representing California's teachers' unions, said.

Unions claim that the changes would unfairly target older teachers, deny teachers a proper hiring/firing process, and essentially lower the overall morale of teachers in the system.

The recent lawsuit also brings attention to the fundamental differences between the tenure system for public school teachers and university professors. In the California public education system, teachers are granted tenure after 18 months of careful evaluation. At USD it takes professors a



Leeva Chung teaches a class at USD. She believes that tenure laws in K-12 education should remain in place.

Leeva Earl/The Vista

minimum of six years to be considered for tenure.

Though professors at USD will not be affected by this lawsuit, Leeva Chung, a communication studies professor, still believes that the statute granting teacher tenure after 18 months experience should stay in place. Chung pointed out that the process to become a public school teacher is very extensive and complex.

"They receive more than adequate training compared to professors with PhDs," Chung said.

This extensive training is evidenced by USD's teaching degree requirements. Students in the SOLES teaching program are required to take specific education related courses, pass multiple competency exams, have hundreds of hours of experience in a classroom and conduct several interviews in order to begin the student teaching process.

Currently, teacher evaluation is based on state standardized test scores, providing motivation for teachers to

teach directly to the test. This does not sit well with many, including senior Lauren Hogan who will be graduating this year with her teaching credential. Hogan, who works as a full-time student teacher at Bay Park Elementary School in the fifth grade, said that basing teacher evaluation on student standardized test performances may be problematic.

"If we're being assessed purely on test scores, that's very bad because then a teacher's entire job becomes not to teach kids concepts, but how to pass the test," Hogan said.

Hogan will be the newest generation of incoming teachers, and would be affected by the last-hired, first-fired rule if it remains in place.

"That rule is ridiculous. How is it possibly fair that I went through four and a half years of how to be a teacher for today's kids when I'm reprimanded for not finishing my degree thirty years ago?" Hogan said.

If teacher tenure laws are changed through this lawsuit, districts would

not be allowed to lay off new teachers simply because they were the last hired. This means that the seniority rule, which is a statute as of now, would be modified and put new teachers on the same level as those with many more years of experience.

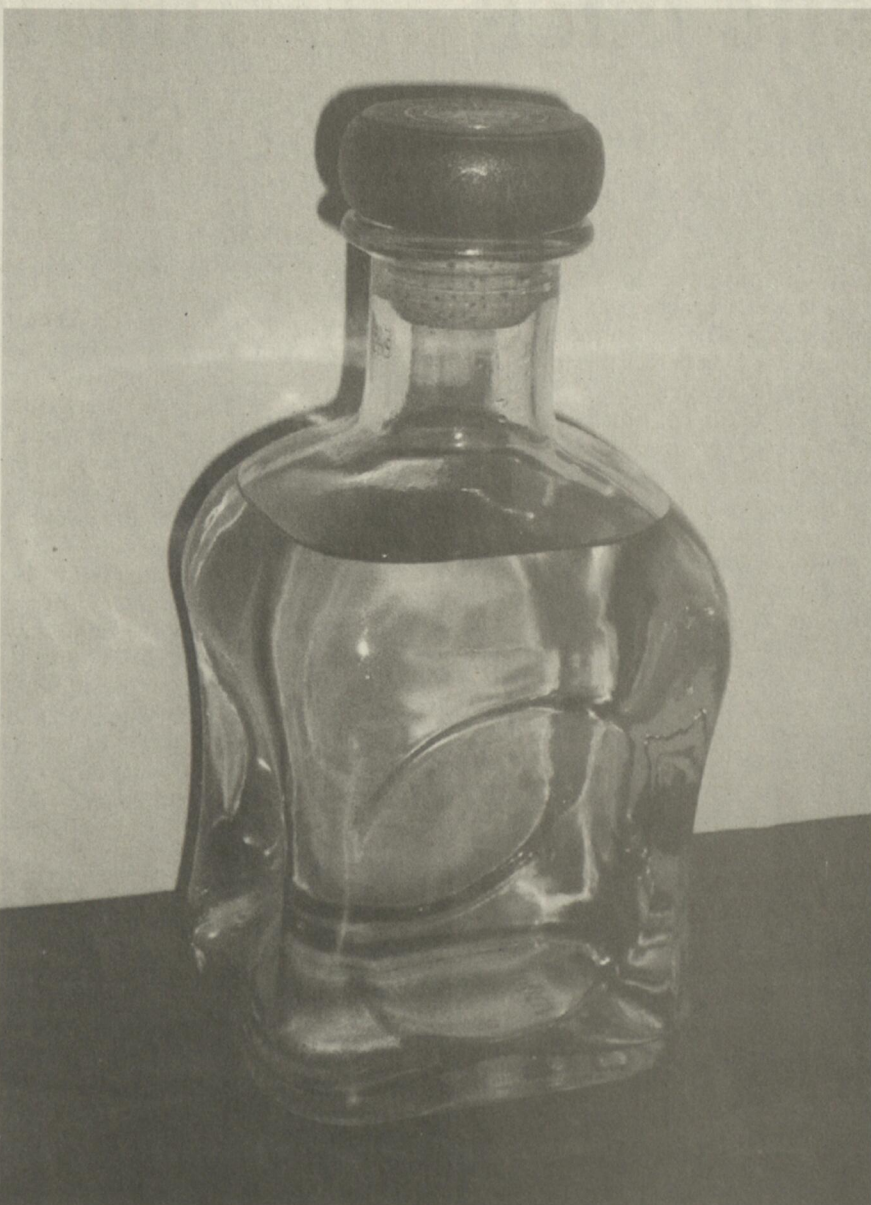
Some wish to see the seniority rule stay in place however, including Maura Giles-Watson, an English professor at USD.

"Seniority has its problems, but it is also a remedy against favoritism and nepotism in teacher hiring and promotion," Giles-Watson said.

California's public school system will not see whether the changes brought forth by the nine students will be put into effect until March. Regardless of the contention surrounding her future job, Hogan notes that being a teacher is what she truly wants.

"Knowing that the things I'm teaching the kids is going to lead them through their educational lives is more rewarding than anything else in the world," Hogan said.

Report: drinking age saves lives



Flickr CC/ Monica Arellano-Ongpin

A new study conducted by Boston University shows that the drinking age of 21 in the U.S. 'saves lives.'

DRINKING, continued from Front Page

should remain 21.

She also said that a lower drinking age could also adversely affect young people moving to a different environment in college.

"Changing the drinking age 18 may add too many responsibilities for new adults who are dealing with adult activities like moving away to college," Kravetz said.

Nevertheless, she feels that the elevated drinking age makes the atmosphere different for people in college.

"As a non-21 year old, I think the current drinking age encourages kids to sneak around or to buy fake I.D.s," Kravetz said.

Many first-time college students are dealing with a variety of new things, including living on their own for the first time, caring for themselves and learning the responsibilities of balancing school and other involvement activities.

Freshman Jamie Borer said that being in the new college environment will make it more likely for students to drink alcohol.

"Being in the college atmosphere where there are students of various ages, alcohol is available to me," Borer said. "There are ways to be safe

though, like getting rides or taking a cab from place to place to avoid becoming a statistic, [and] to prevent death or serious problems."

That is something the Center for Health and Wellness Promotion is trying to instill in students. Stephanie Lynch, who works in the CHWP and is the advisor of Campus Connections, a club on campus that promotes healthy lifestyles and focuses on alcohol awareness, believes that the conversation needs to change.

"Alcohol is the number one thing that adversely impacts today's college students," Lynch said. "There are many negative consequences of drinking for students of all ages at USD. Through the club and here at the CHWP, we talk a lot about limits because students who choose to drink need to be aware of exactly what and how much they are drinking."

These resources at USD are catered to students both under and over the age of 21.

Lynch said that the purpose of these programs is to make students and their peers aware of the effects and repercussions of alcohol use.

Whether or not the legal drinking age of 21 is justifiable, she believes that it is important for students to understand that anyone can have something go wrong under the influence of alcohol.

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PUBLIC SAFETY

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



alcohol/drugs

Feb. 23

Location: University Terrace Apartments

At 3:18 P.M. Public Safety responded to a report of vandalism. Upon investigation, unknown suspect(s) bent a student's car antenna between Feb. 22nd at approximately 11 P.M. and Feb. 23rd at approximately 10 A.M. hours.

★ ★ ★

Feb. 27

Location: San Luis Obispo Hall

At 10 P.M Resident Assistants cited one student for a Liquor Law Violation.

★ ★ ★

Feb. 27

Location: San Rafael Hall

At 7:55 P.M. Resident Assistants cited one student for a Liquor Law Violation.

★ ★ ★

Feb. 28

Location: Founders Hall

At 10:50 P.M. Public Safety responded to a report of an intoxicated student. Upon investigation, one student was determined to be unable to care for herself and she was transported to the Detox.

★ ★ ★

Feb. 28

Location: Founders Hall

At 2104 Public Safety responded to a report of an intoxicated student. Upon investigation, one student was determined to be unable to care for herself and she was transported to the hospital.

THEFT

Feb. 25

Location: San Buenaventura

At 5:06 P.M. Public Safety responded to a report of a theft. Upon investigation, unknown suspect(s) stole a student's pair of glasses and case between Feb. 5th at approximately 8:30 A.M. and Feb. 7th at approximately 8 P.M.

★ ★ ★

Feb. 26

Location: University Terrace Apartments

At 1:26 P.M. Public Safety responded to a report of a theft. Upon investigation, unknown suspect(s) stole a student's passport and visa at Feb. 22nd between 8 A.M. and 3 P.M.

★ ★ ★

Feb. 28

Location: Alcala Vistas N Lot

At 11:35 A.M. Public Safety responded to a report of a theft. Upon investigation, unknown suspect(s) stole a student's backpack containing various personal items from his vehicle between Feb. 27th that approximately 9 P.M. and Feb 28th at approximately 3 A.M.

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department of
public safety

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Non-Emergency
(619) 260-7777

Mike Van Mierlo/The Vista

Plastic bags to get the ax

BAGS, continued from Front Page

to deteriorate. They are difficult to recycle because they jam up sorting machines at recycling plants, according to the New York Times. They also can clog up storm drains, causing potential flooding danger during rainy seasons for surrounding neighborhoods.

Del Río said that because of these problems, the plastic bag laws should not only be applied only to municipalities, but should also extend to the state level.

"One of the big costs of these plastic bags is that...they float around and they litter all over the place," del Río said. "So it's a mobile problem. It's a bigger problem than what's contained in municipalities."

According to the New York Times, since the city of San Jose instituted a ban on plastic bags, the amount of plastic bag litter in storm drains has fallen by 89 percent.

Though happy about the individual efforts of cities in California, del Río said that the importance of the state law is that it would push the responsibility to control escalating pollution from individuals to the state.

"The fact that [some people] bring their own bags to the grocery store doesn't really change much," del Río said. "But when you start having everybody do it, then you start really

seeing some real change."

However, according to the New York Times, some people complain that these bags are less sturdy than the plastic equivalents.

For example, on a rainy day, less-sturdy but biodegradable paper bags from grocery stores become soggy and break easily. Lacking the handles of plastic bags, paper bags can also be more difficult to hold and can easily have the bottom fall out.

An alternative to the biodegradable paper bags are canvas bags, which the state law will require retail stores to carry if it is passed. The canvas bags have handles like plastic bags and are sturdier than the normal single-use, plastic bags. The state law will require that these bags be viable for reuse over 100 times.

Junior Elia Rivas, an environmental studies major, believes that passing this law will lead to more action to promote these reusable bags.

"[This law is] definitely a step in the right direction," Rivas said. "Policies like this one will help protect the world we live in, and hopefully it will lead to more. It could mean an eventual end for paper bags as well, replacing them with reusable bags. It's all about a shift in our mindset and how we think about our actions and the effects they have on our world."

The New York Times reported that large plastic bag manufacturers spent

over \$1 million to block a similar bill that would have outlawed single-use bags in 2010.

However, with this new bill, del Río believes that the manufacturers will be unsuccessful in blocking the legislation from passing in the state.

"Right now, everything's working for them," del Río said. "They don't want change. So if it keeps clogging up storm drains and it's littering our wilderness areas or our neighborhoods, it doesn't matter to them. But for the state and the public, it's not working. I don't think they have a very good argument. I think they're going to lose."

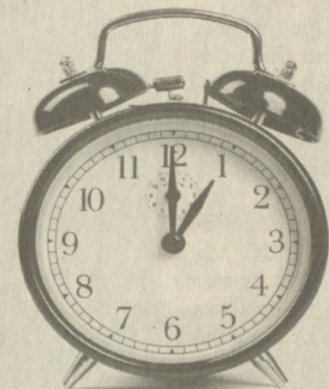
Additionally, Self hopes that the ban on plastic bags would lead to similar bans on other consumer goods.

"Hopefully getting people to reuse bags will also open their eyes to reusing other materials as well," Self said. "Instead of buying products and disposing of the packaging without being aware of the impact of these materials, we need to adopt a more conscious form of consumerism if we want to minimize our impact on the environment."

Correction

Ivy Guild has been credited with feature design on issues 13-16, pages 8-9. All credit for these designs go to Colleen Buffington.

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OPINION

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The problem with empathy



By Sara Butler
ASST. OPINION EDITOR

We're college students. We're changemakers. But when it comes to empathy, we might be completely wrong.

Empathy, or "the feeling that you understand and share another person's experiences and emotions, or the ability to share someone else's feelings," is usually regarded as a positive thing. From a very young age, we have been taught to embrace empathy. To take others with open arms, assuring them that we have been there before. To comfort and cure others by connecting with our friends in need.

There is nothing wrong with being a good person or friend. Sometimes a hug or smile goes a long way to cheer someone up. I think the problem with empathy is the idea of instinctive relatability.

There is something twisted with saying we've been there before. In our narcissistic society, we often take other's problems and make them about us. We take away their pain, the one thing they have and remind them of our own.

Sadness and depression are not things we should aspire to have, but from time to time, they are inevitable. And sometimes, when we feel like we have nothing left, it's nice to have that pain to cling to. When someone makes your problems about them, they can take that pain away from you.

Even when empathy has no negative intention, it is never really real. There is absolutely no way to truly understand exactly what someone is going through. Sometimes two experiences look identical on the surface level. However, even when the two different people go through the exact same scenario, they are still different people. These two distinct people may have contrasting experiences of the same situation, as they have different personalities, perceptions and realities.

Last week, my childhood pet passed away. My 15-year-old terrier mix was old and sick, so it was more or less expected, but it did not make it hurt any less. When I posted a picture of her on Instagram, an influx of support came rolling in. My friends commented and texted me things like "I know how you feel" and "It always sucks to lose a pet."

While I appreciated their support, some of their responses made me upset. Just because I was going through a typically common hard time did not mean I wanted to hear about the times they dealt with these "similar" things. They were past it, but I was not. I did not want to hear their stories so that they could make my problems about their own experiences.

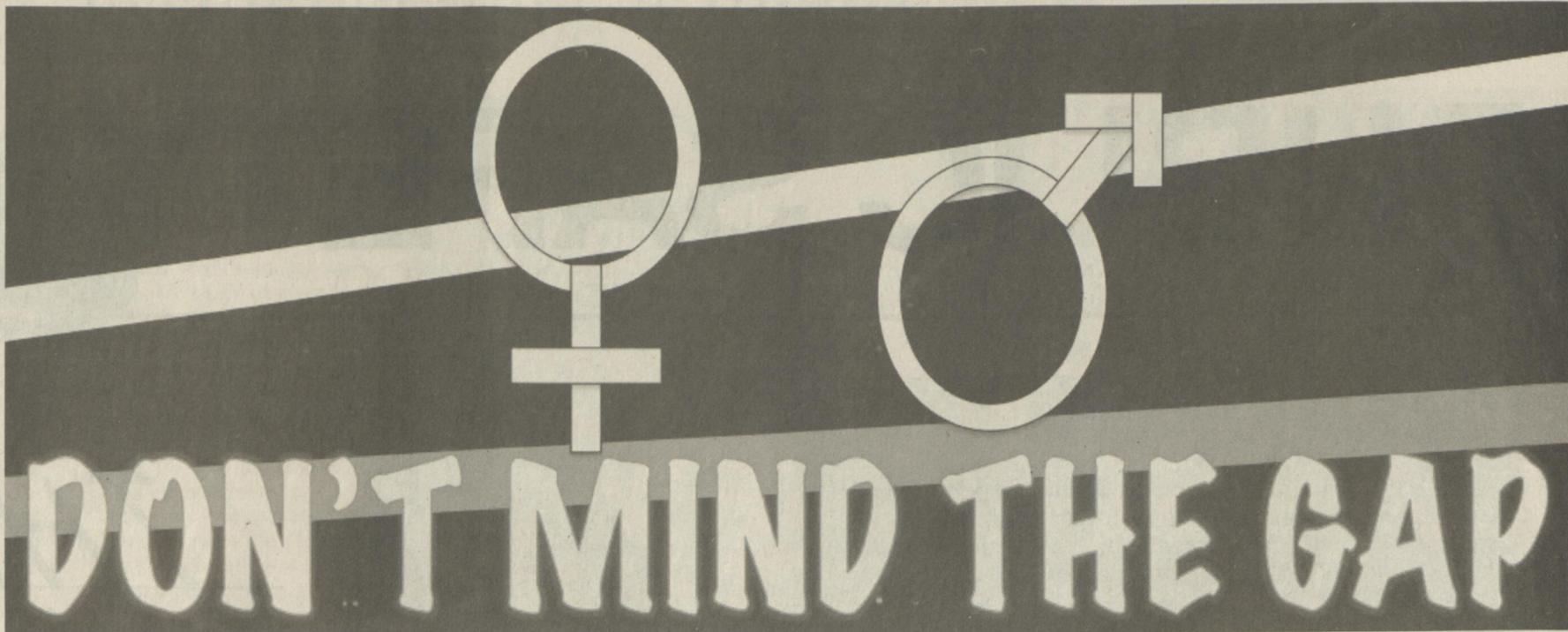
Growing up as an only child, my dogs were my best friends. My playmates, my protectors, my posse: they were there 24/7. I had no brothers or sisters to come home to or pass the time with, so my dogs became my pseudo-siblings. My dogs weren't just a part of my family; they were major members of my family.

When my friends tried to comfort me after my dog's death, they usually related it to the death of their own animals. What if they were to relate the death of my dog to the death of one of their brothers or sisters? How different would their response have been?

I realize this example seems dramatic, but it's to prove a simple point: just because we think we've been there, doesn't necessarily mean we have. Everyone has different life experiences, and imposing our judgment on their situation may be misguided.

So what should we do? Maybe we could just listen. Closing our mouths and opening our ears might go a long way. By letting someone tell you how they are feeling in their own words, they can try to explain to you the indescribable things that you will never fully understand. While you might never be able to completely relate, you will get a glimpse into their own secret world, with the pains and pleasures of their own perspective.

I think there might be a problem with our society's blind encouragement of empathy. Sometimes, you don't need to understand. You don't have to relate. You can just be there, without "having been there."



Kendall Tich/The Vista

Check your sources on the gendered wage disparity

By Henry Kittle
STAFF WRITER

A lot of soon-to-be college graduates are stressed about getting a job these days, and for good reason.

According to The Associated Press, approximately 54 percent of college grads under the age of 25 were out of work or underemployed in 2011.

Of the college graduates lucky enough to be employed, a survey from the consulting firm, McKinsey, found that 48 percent hold positions that do not require a four year degree.

The same study found that 40 percent of grads from the nations top 100 universities were unable to land jobs in their field of choice. Not exactly the ideal return on a \$200,000 investment considering the average debt of a USD graduate is just shy of \$30,000. It's like THE HUNGER GAMES out there.

But for the women of USD, President Obama has good news, "Today, women make up about half our workforce. But they still make 77 cents for every dollar a man earns. That is wrong, and in 2014, it's an

embarrassment. A woman deserves equal pay for equal work," Obama said in his 2014 State of the Union Address.

Why would an employer ever pick guys when he could get the same work at a cheaper price from women? Men of USD, Obama has warned us, we need to bring our A-games to interviews to compete with that.

But if Obama's claims were true, women would make up much more than half the workforce. Why would a profit maximizing firm ever hire a man if they could hire a woman to do the same work for less money?

I am not saying gender discrimination does not exist in the workforce, but seldom in the form of pay gaps.

That is to say, firms care more about profit than they do about segregating women with lower wages. They have to in order to stay in business. The true embarrassment here is that our president is tricking citizens in an attempt to gain popularity points through the misconception of facts into politically charged conclusions.

So if everything I've said is correct, then why does this idea that women are paid less for equal work persist?

First, realize that the statistic referred to by Obama fails to compare

two co-workers of opposite sexes, performing the same job for the same number of hours every day.

Instead, the figure simply captures the median earnings of all men and women umbrellaed by the full-time workers category.

According to the Department of Labor's Time Use Survey, the average fully employed man spends 8.14 hours a day at work, whereas the average fully employed woman spends 7.75 hours a day at work.

More time spent on the job is strongly associated with higher earnings. This, however, only explains roughly a quarter of the pay gap.

How much someone gets paid is largely a matter of preference and personal choice.

An extensive 2009 study by the U.S. Department of Labor examined 50 peer-reviewed papers and found that the wage gap "may be almost entirely the result of individual choices being made by both male and female workers."

Men are more likely to pursue dangerous, dirty and uncomfortable jobs with grueling hours in exchange for higher pay.

On the other hand, women are more likely to value other characteristics of

a job over pay such as shorter weeks, closeness to home, personal satisfaction and safety, according to data compiled by the Census Bureau.

According to a study from Rochester Institute of Technology, female business owners earn less than half of what male business owners earn.

Unless the boss is discriminating against herself, there are clearly other factors at play.

The study found that a probable explanation for this gap is that money is the primary motivator for 76 percent of men, compared to merely 29 percent of women.

Despite the basis of their argument being sanctioned by the Commander-in-Chief, feminists are losing credibility in the straw man fight for equal pay.

Americans should be weary of policy changes justified by the raw wage gap, which falsely suggests the ubiquity of sexism in the labor market.

On average, African Americans are paid more than Caucasians in the NBA, but does that mean the league is rigged against White people? Of course not.

So please, take a second to check the source of the smoke before shouting fire.

IPHONE APPLICATIONS OF THE WEEK

GLIDE

Glide is an iPhone application that allows you to instantly record, send and receive videos with other users.

FLIPAGRAM

Bring Moments to Life!

Create short video stories from your photos, set to music you love!

LEARNIST

Learnist is a crowd-sourced collection of the world's knowledge.

CHROMATIK

LIFE IS SHORT. PLAY MORE MUSIC.

ITUBE

This app allows you to manage playlists on YouTube and play videos or music from YouTube in the background.

huge group chats

Today

- Chess Club
- Sarah
- Jackson Family Chat

Add Moments

Albums People Places Time

Morena, CA

Repulse Bay, Southern District

This app provides you with a collection of knowledge and information from experts in varying areas of study.

TUNE OF THE DAY

remove ads Search More Apps

Search YouTube

History

Relevance Published View Count Playlists

PSY - GANGNAM STYLE (강남스타일) M/V

Views: 1,920,600,649

04:13

PSY - GENTLEMAN M/V

Views: 649,745,182

03:54

RECORD YOURSELF

Carly Rae Jepsen - Call Me Maybe

By: 3/1/12

Views: 534,761,557

94%

03:20

Common sex myths debunked

MYTH:

It's easy to see if someone has an STD.

TRUTH:

Most people who have an STD do not have any visible signs or symptoms. In fact, some may not even know they have the disease.

MYTH:

Oral sex and anal sex are safe sex or not considered sex at all.

TRUTH:

Almost all STDs that can be passed on through vaginal sex can also be passed on through oral or anal sex.

MYTH:

The birth control pill makes it less crucial to use a condom.

TRUTH:

The pill is not 100 percent effective and it does not protect against STDs.

“Let's talk about sex”

By Tatum Hohl
STAFF WRITER

College is a time for exploring, experimenting and learning. Based on college sex trends, students are exploring and experimenting but the same cannot be said for learning.

A sexual satisfaction survey conducted by Lifestyle Condoms found that 40 percent of the respondents, between the ages of 18 and 24, said they were willing to experiment with new things regarding sex.

While college students continue to experiment, they simultaneously explore different sexual situations.

NBC news cited that two-thirds of college students have been in a “friends with benefits” relationship where a lack of commitment is the main characteristic.

Of those who have had sex with a friend, over half said they have engaged in all forms of sex.

“Sex has become socially acceptable, condoned and even praised by our peers,” junior Nicole Parker said.

After years of sexual education in primary and secondary schools, it would seem logical that college students would engage in safe sex. But, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, almost half of the 20 million new sexually transmitted diseases diagnosed each year are among 15-24 year-olds.

Even more overwhelming is that one in four college students has an STD.

The transmitting of STDs among college students can be greatly attributed to the fact that nearly a quarter of college students either wear a condom some of the time they have sex or never.

While these statistics are

staggering, what's more staggering is that as a college student myself, I had no idea about these numbers.

Sex is talked about casually among friends in dorms, over coffee, on social media; basically in every situation other than the college classroom. This seems counterintuitive.

Behaviors and attitudes are formed by beliefs. So in order to change college students' behaviors and attitudes, you must change their beliefs. The most obvious way to do so is to teach them the consequences of their sexual actions.

In her surveys of over 17,000 students from 20 colleges and universities, sociologist Paula England has found that by senior year the average number of hook-ups for men is 9.7 and 7.1 for women with 24 percent remaining virgins.

This means that sexual education in the college classroom would benefit over three quarters of college students during their schooling. And, for those who remain virgins, this education would provide them with preventative knowledge to avoid sexual consequences that may already have occurred among those currently engaging in sexual activity.

While abstinence is the only absolute way to prevent STDs and pregnancy, the numbers prove that abstinence among college students is an unrealistic goal. Instead, the education that would be most beneficial would be how to have “safe” sex.

“There are so many resources to deal with the negative consequences of sex, that people are focused on fixing the symptoms rather than the cause,” Parker said.

In the study, “Condom use errors and problems among college men,” the researchers found that the majority of respondents had not checked the

condom for damage or an expiration date.

“I think if guys come to college and don't know how to use a condom correctly, it may seem embarrassing for them to ask,” senior Molly Gentile said. “If it isn't readily available or visible, they may miss out on that information.”

This study shows that even when students try to be safe, they don't always know how to. This lack of knowledge can lead to more consequences than just STDs, such as unplanned pregnancies.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, college-aged women are among those with the highest unintended pregnancy rates.

The institute also proved that contraception works and among the American women who are at risk of an unintended pregnancy, the two-thirds who practice contraception consistently and correctly account for only five percent of the unintended pregnancies.

But, in order for women to practice these skills, they must be equipped with them.

“An optional informative session would be more beneficial than a mandatory one because a ‘requirement’ is a lot less attractive to students,” Parker said.

Of the 124 required units to graduate at USD, nearly half are core curriculum classes. These core classes apply to general education which offers a wide range of subjects. Only a handful of these subjects will be applicable to each student's career path.

The common thread at USD is that all students could benefit from sexual education, yet this is one of the only subjects not addressed in the required courses.

Policies take precedence over public health

By Dani DeVries
STAFF WRITER

Everyone can attest to fact that in elementary school, if one child in the class is sick, it is just a matter of time before the whole class is. Although we are now in college, the same principle applies, and a student going to class sick is still not a good idea.

Due to some professors' attendance policies, it is becoming more and more common to find a seriously sick student sitting in class. Do strict attendance policies make us prioritize attending class rather than taking care of our own health?

The way college classes are portrayed in movies or TV shows makes it seem like classes are totally expendable, and it's up to you whether or not you choose to go.

There is a misplaced belief that because we are no longer under our parents' guidance, class is totally optional; no one is there to monitor your attendance and it is our responsibility to make the choice to go to class. This portrayal, in my experience, seems to be completely misleading.

Not only do teachers take roll, they also limit the number of absences permissible before marking a student's grade down. Furthermore, some professors send emails asking students about why they were not in class, even going as far as to admonish them for missing.

campus.

However, as teachers get more and more strict in mandating class attendance, students choose to come to class sick, thus ensuring we are all exposed to a wide range of germs we might otherwise be able to avoid.

It seems appalling that some teachers do not allow for any missed days without taking points off a student's grade, as sickness is bound to happen.

It is common knowledge that college students are highly susceptible to sickness, as minimal sleep weakens immune systems and dorm life makes the transfer of illness from person to person widespread.

Yet, even though students are prone to sickness, some teachers still try and maintain perfect attendance, making students choose between their health or their grade.

Sadly, with growing pressure to succeed academically, it is easy to weigh grades heavier than your own health.

If professors had more laid back attendance policies, perhaps students would have time to recover properly, and we could avoid the unnecessary spreading of germs.

Now this isn't to say we should all skip class at the slightest sign of a runny nose, but each person should know when he or she is too sick to attend school.

“Due to some professors' attendance policies, it is becoming more and more common to find a seriously sick student sitting in class. Do strict attendance policies make us prioritize attending class rather than taking care of our own health?”

While it is understandable why teachers want students to be present in class, how far is too far?

As adults, students should have the right to choose to go to class. If they decide to miss class, that is their own choice, which will be reflected in their grade.

It's silly for professors to coddle their students and try to force their presence in class, as it is the student's choice of what to prioritize over schoolwork.

One example of when it is totally understandable to miss class is when you are sick. Yes, sometimes you are able to power through, but for the most part, students should be mindful of their health when making the decision to attend class each day.

Not only are they furthering their own condition by not allowing ample time to recover, they are also jeopardizing the health of others as contagious illnesses run rampant through

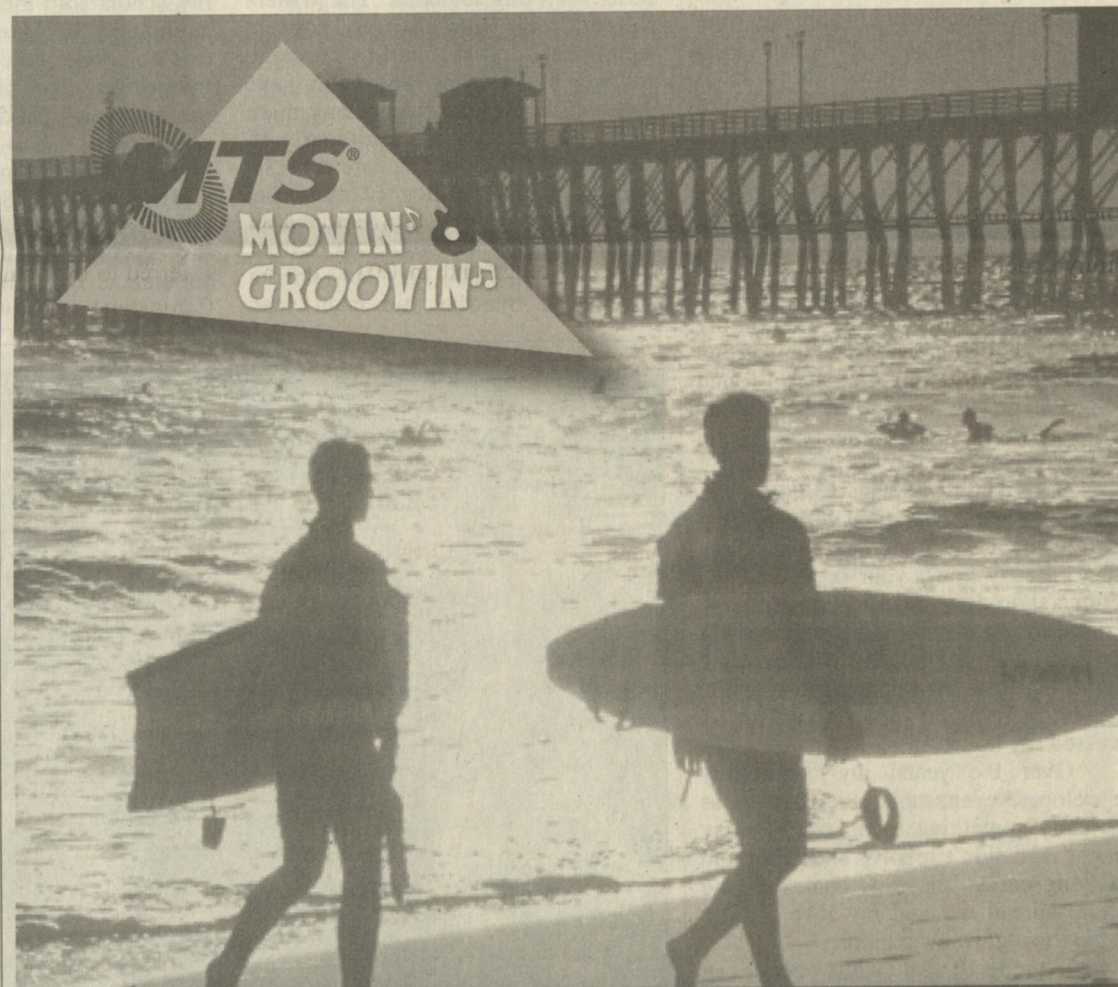
If you have a fever, bad cough or cold, flu indicators or an intense sore throat, it is important to consider whether or not you should expose others to your symptoms. If you do choose to come to class, make sure to have tissues at the ready and cough into your elbow instead of the air.

Additionally, everyone should make an effort to frequently wash their hands and avoid touching your mouth, eyes or nose, in order to keep germs from getting into your system.

We, as a campus community, need to strive to maintain our own health and the health of others.

While it would be ideal for professors to be more understanding and leave it to the student to decide when it is appropriate to attend class, it is each person's individual responsibility to choose to focus on staying healthy. This may mean the occasional class or meeting is missed.

In the end, health should trump all.



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Letters to the Editor Policy

The Vista strongly encourages letters to the editor from students, faculty, staff, administration and the community.

Correspondence should be sent to editor@usdvista.com with the subject line “Letter to the Editor.” Letters for the up-coming edition are due Saturday by 6 p.m.

Submissions should be limited to 500 words and must include verifiable contact information. Letter content is subject to editing for clarity and style.

The Vista does not publish anonymous letters, those addressed to a third party or letters in poor taste.

FEATURE

EDITOR

Brittany Carava
feature@usdvista.com

Small Town USA

By Brittany Carava
FEATURE EDITOR

"Where are you from?" This is probably one of the more annoying questions students encounter during orientation and Greek recruitment. For some, it's an easy to answer question if they live in a major recognizable city. For others, who live in the absolute middle of nowhere, it may be a little more difficult.

For many, talking about their hometown is a reminder of the freedom they currently have in college, and their desire to never return to their sleepy little town. However, as students mature through their years in college, I think many people begin to see the positives of living in a tight knit community.

Although my hometown is a suburb of Los Angeles, about 40 minutes from the city, it couldn't feel any further away from the bright lights of the rich and famous. With one high school, and a Beaver Cleaver-esque downtown, it's a retired couple's dream. However, growing up in this quaint small town, definitely had its drawbacks.

For most of my pre-teen and early teenage years, there was no movie theater, ice skating rink, roller rink, mall, or mini golfing in our town which resulted in parents alternating driving a bunch of us to other cities nearby. Most kids drove up to the top of the mountain road to blast their music and participate in inappropriate activities.

Because the town was so tight-knit, rumors circulated quickly and everyone seemed to know everyone. My high school resembled North Shore High from Mean Girls with all the cliques accounted for. There were the jocks and the band geeks and most importantly, there were the plastics. Girls were caddy just like every school, but because the community was small, it only heightened the drama.

After graduation, I couldn't wait to go to college. I was ready to be on my own and experience a whole new group of friends. Within the first year, I found that college was an amazing time of my life, meeting new people and having new experiences.

Surprisingly, I was a tad homesick. I missed the quaint market with amazing deli sandwiches, the donut shop where they already knew your order and the coffee shop downtown where you were bound to run into someone you knew. I missed cheering under the Friday night lights and blasting country music while driving to In-n-Out with my boyfriend. I missed my home.

Over the years, my community developed even more and there was actually something to do on a Friday night that didn't involve sitting around playing cards. The trips home became more spread out and my love for my little town grew even more.

I realized that while being an independent teenager, my hometown may have been a drag, but looking back it is such a blessing. This past January, there was a wildfire that caused hundreds of homes to be evacuated and some destroyed in the flames. One of the families, whose daughter had been my TA in middle school, lost everything. The community rallied behind them and raised over \$25,000 to help them get back on their feet. A young boy who I knew died of leukemia last fall, and the outpouring of love and support to the family was tremendous.

While on one of my trips home, I reconnected with someone who I had volunteered with in the past who had a connection to Disney, a company I've always wanted to work for. Networking opportunities always seem to come up in the randomest of places.

Moments like these made me realize that living in such a small town wasn't as bad as I made it up to be. It is a community of support and love that wants the best for all that reside there. While some may never want to return to their sleepy hometowns, I think it is worthwhile to look back and see the foundation that your hometown has created for you.

For me, I will always be grateful for tree-lined streets, the cheery music that plays in downtown and the sound of the bagpipe team rehearsing at the high school. I challenge you this spring break to figure out why your hometown is your home and to look at it in a new light. Who knows, you may find yourself missing that dive restaurant with awesome breakfast burritos, the Homecoming parade or just the feeling of being somewhere familiar and at home.

PHIL campaign says thanks to USD donors

By Gwyneth Newbold Shoecraft
STAFF WRITER

Caution tape lined doors and building signs across campus. Signs were posted from Bert's Bistro to the Student Life Pavilion. Everywhere USD students looked, there it was: the clear assertion that Phil Was Here. But who is this new presence on campus that has taken over USD's eateries, lawns, gardens and buildings? Who is this mysterious PHIL?

PHIL Was Here is a new campaign being used to spark student interest in philanthropy. Spearheaded by the Student Alumni Organization, the Senior Class Legacy Campaign and the Culture of Giving Committee, "PHIL Was Here" is a celebration of philanthropy awareness and donor appreciation week.

Alicia Massei, assistant director of annual giving at USD, oversees the "PHIL Was Here" campaign with the Associate Director of Alumni Relations, Sarah Zakaria. Massei worked a booth outside the SLP along with student volunteers wearing bright blue t-shirts that prompted passersby to ask them about PHIL. The campaign is working; during dead hours on Tuesday February 25th the booth was crowded with students inquiring about the mysterious PHIL. "USD is affect by philanthropy everywhere," Massei said, "even if students don't recognize it or see it right away." Massei said the "PHIL Was Here" campaign is helping create a "buzz around campus."

The "PHIL Was Here" campaign allows students the rare opportunity to thank alumni donors. Students at the campaign's booth gathered around the crowded table, handwriting thank you cards to young alumnus. The writers tailored their messages to connect with the donors, citing specific colleges or locations the donors have invested in. But there are many more cards to write. Massei said nearly 13 percent of all alumni donate to USD each year. The Office of Financial Aid Newsletter reports that alumni donations contribute to the 82 million dollars that USD and its donors provide in financial aid each year.



During the PHIL campaign students were given a chance to write letters to USD donors to thank them for their donations to school programs and scholarships.

Those millions go a to help a majority of USD students. In the 2012-13 school year 72 percent of all undergraduates received some form of financial aid from USD. Chances are if a student received scholarship money last year alumni played a role in that gift.

Senior, Mel Georgi knows the benefit of alumni donations. "Without my scholarship money, I wouldn't be attending USD," Georgi said. "The fact that someone believes I'm worth the investment, even if they don't know me, means a great deal to me."

"PHIL Was Here" hopes to bring philanthropy awareness to undergraduate USD students. The campaign also shows undergraduates how to continue the legacy of alumni donations. The Senior Class Legacy Campaign, celebrating its 25th year

at USD, asks seniors to donate \$25 a year for four years. These donations go directly to incoming freshman at USD, allowing the seniors to pay-it-forward. Zakaria said that over the past four years "the Alumni Association has been able to give \$15,000 in awards to students through this program." This money, unlike other financial donations and gifts to USD, is never invested and instead goes directly from outgoing students to incoming students.

The Senior Class Legacy Campaign gives a low-cost philanthropic opportunity to students like Georgi, whose scholarship money makes her eager to pay-it-forward. "It makes me want to do that for a student in the future," she said, "and to give [other students] the same hope that there are good people out there who

care enough to make the dreams of someone else come true." "PHIL Was Here" shows students like Georgi how they can continue USD's history of philanthropy.

The caution tape has come down. The signs are slowly disappearing from the gardens and grass around campus. But as the "PHIL Was Here" campaign comes to a close, it hopes to leave a legacy of its own. Students now know just who PHIL is, and how PHIL works at USD to maintain and promote the university. Next time students are enjoying food at the SLP or Bert's Bistro, using new science or engineering equipment, or receive a little extra help with tuition from USD, they will remember to thank PHIL.



Students attend a lecture on "Latino/a Identity" given by Dr. Angelo Corlett.

Photo courtesy of Leeza Earl

Examining cultural identity on campus

By Leeza Earl
STAFF WRITER

Ethnicity is an identity that most individuals connect with as being a part of their culture and experience. San Diego State University philosophy professor Dr. Angelo Corlett presented to USD students on what it truly means to be Latino or Latino and what qualities a person needs to be considered one.

"We are all a part of multiple ethnic groups, so how can we identify as one," Corlett said. "However, we mostly identify solely as one but why is this?"

Corlett questioned the audience on what they believed to be the reason to be a Latino. He asked if the Spanish language, culture and naming would make a person a Latino, and the audience disagreed. Corlett gave counter arguments that anyone can speak another language, get married and change their last name or eat tamales and the audience decided these were not ways that make you a Latino.

Junior Tyler Safran expressed his view on Corlett's claim on the human race. "One thing I learned was the difference in the concepts of race

versus ethnicity, there is only one race-the human race," Safran said. "What makes us different or diverse isn't our race, but our ethnicity and how we identify within a certain ethnic group. Because it is a social construction, he revealed that ethnic identity is usually misinterpreted as racial identity."

Senior Sanaz Azemoun identifies herself as multiracial. "While this is something I feel is a part of my identity I think it also allows the stereotypes to be fed and marginalization to continue" Azemoun said. "There is only one race which I agree with and that being the human race."

Breaking the stereotypes of ethnicities, Corlett explains there are actually no ethnic groups because there is only the human race. Not being able to identify with what makes a person a Latino because there is no pure ethnic group, many individuals still continue to base their ethnicity off what they have been socially constructed to do.

Senior Laura Mckniff expresses her reaction to the lecture. "I have never thought about what makes me consider myself in a certain ethnic group," Mckniff said. "Realizing that I am a part of the human race and not an ethnicity. I am able to see that there is

no way I can prove my ethnicity except through DNA still isn't perfect."

While Corlett focused on being a Latino he also expressed that this concept correlates to any ethnicity in any area. Constantly challenging the stereotypes that society has places on

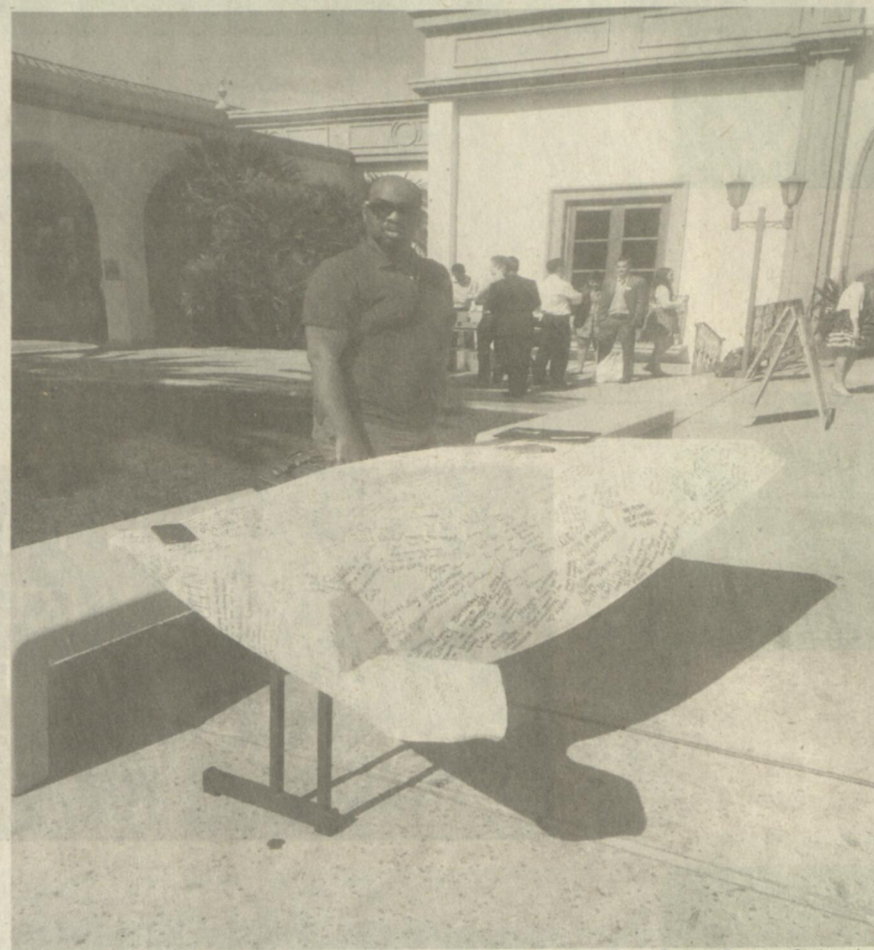
ethnicities Corlett isn't stopping here. Teaching for more than 25 years, Corlett has eight books and over 100 articles published and plans to continue the talk on race until science catches up with society.



Photo courtesy of Leeza Earl



Left: Students sign a poster to wish Colin a happy birthday in operation "Happy Birthday Colin". Right: Torero senior Brandon Christopher stands above the signed poster that will be sent to Colin. Christopher is the student in charge of starting the "Happy Birthday Colin" campaign on USD's campus.



Photos courtesy of Leeza Earl and Brandon Christopher

Student raises support for young boy's birthday

By Leeza Earl
STAFF WRITER

With over 100 happy birthday wishes, senior, Brandon Christopher hopes to make Colin's eleventh birthday the best birthday a young boy could ask for.

Colin is a ten year old boy from Richland, MI who suffers from a disorder similar to Asperger's syndrome. Colin's mother, Jennifer, has yet to reveal what his disorder is specifically, but states the disorder causes him to lack social skills and that he often misbehaves in school.

Because of this, Colin feels that other children dislike him and that he doesn't have any friends. Since Colin will be celebrating his eleventh birthday on March 9, his mother asked him if he wanted to have a party and

Colin's response was "there wasn't a point because he doesn't have any friends." Colin sits alone during lunch feeling left out, giving his mother and many people around the world the heart to show Colin he has hundreds of friends.

Jennifer started a Facebook page which gained 2 million likes telling the story of Colin. The page requests help from anyone to send letters to Colin wishing him a happy birthday, so he will know he does have friends, friends from around the world.

Christopher expressed his reactions when hearing this story. "I first read the story in an English newspaper, the Daily Mail," Christopher said. "It struck a chord in me and I was just instantly saddened by this young boy feeling this way. I wanted to do something just to give Colin the best birthday gift ever."

Christopher began by starting a Facebook page, asking USD students to participate in helping make Colin's birthday special. With a long piece of white butcher paper and colorful markers, Christopher was ready to make a difference. With participation from groups such as Greek life and other extensions to USD, he was able to get the campus aware and involved in an issue that many students were unaware of.

Sophomore Juliana Lyons expressed her excitement to be involved in such a kind act.

"I'm very happy I could be a part of it, I believe it is so important for people to realize that although it is important to volunteer and give to charity, there are also so many people you can help on a smaller scale," Lyons said. "Although Colin is a stranger to us, just an eleven year old in Michigan,

that does not mean he doesn't need our thoughts, love and support just as much as a major national non-profit organization does."

After hearing Colin's story, Christopher took it upon himself to make a difference in a young boy's life. While he hopes to continue things like this on both a larger and smaller scale he realizes that sometimes the smaller things matter most.

Junior Industrial Engineering major Kevin O'Reilly expressed his thoughts on such a small gesture from Christopher and the USD community. "The little things sometimes mean the most," O'Reilly said. "Having hundreds of USD students to come together and make an impact on Colin's birthday is phenomenal and only shows that just a simple wish can go a long way."

While Christopher plans to mail

the large signed butcher paper to Colin with hopes he will feel the love that exists on USD's campus, he wants to continue to make an impact on the world. He plans to continue these acts in the future long after graduating from USD.

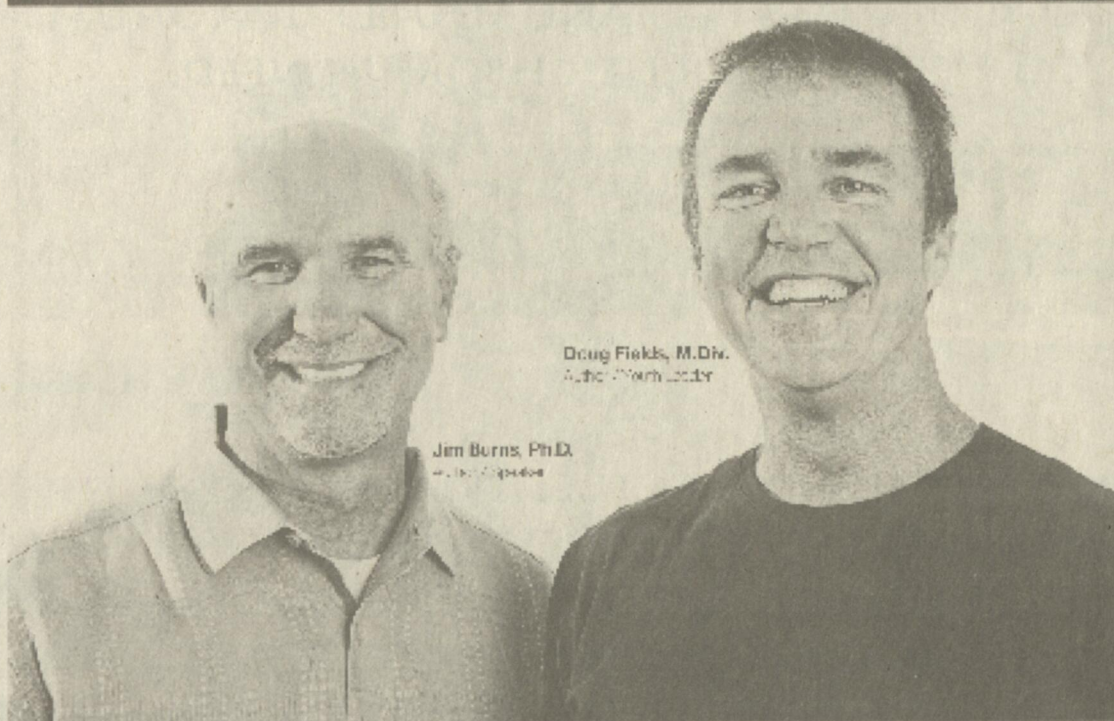
"I want to continue projects like these but on a larger scale so that I can help even more people resulting in a bigger impact and creating a society of philanthropic people," Christopher said.

Jennifer plans to give Colin all the letters she has received on his birthday Mar. 9, so he can see the true friends he has in his life. Jennifer has agreed to record the event and post it to the Facebook page so USD and the rest of his supporters can see his reaction to the love and support he has received.

...BRIAN GRIFFIN

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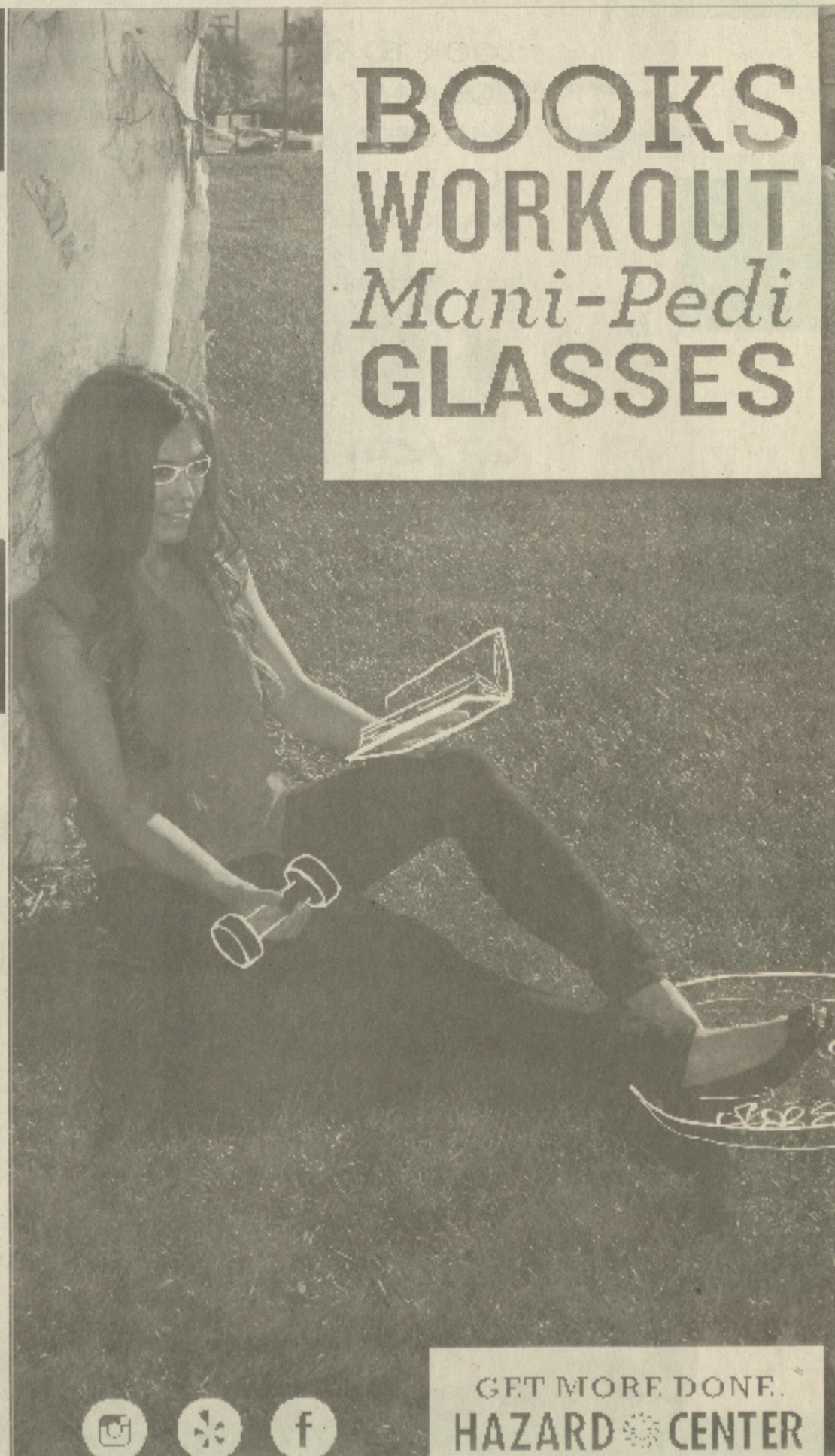


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WALKING TOUR OF YOUR HOMETOWN:

ENJOY THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF YOUR HOMETOWN AND TAKE A WALK AROUND YOUR DOWNTOWN AREA OR LOCAL PARK. YOU MAY JUST FIND A GREAT NEW PLACE TO GRAB ICE CREAM OR A QUIET SHADY PLACE TO READ OR DO YOGA.

GET INVOLVED:

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GET ACTIVE:

SEE IF YOUR LOCAL YOGA OR PILATES STUDIO HAS FREE TRIAL CLASSES. YOU CAN USUALLY GET A WEEK FREE IF YOU'RE NEW TO THAT GYM. FIND A NEW PATH TO RUN AND CHALLENGE YOURSELF TO RUN A LITTLE FURTHER EACH TIME. IF ALL ELSE FAILS, GRAB A SOCCER BALL OR BASKETBALL AND HEAD TO THE PARK OR SCHOOL TO HAVE A PICK-UP GAME WITH FRIENDS.

RECONNECT:

HAVEN'T SEEN EXTENDED FAMILY IN A WHILE? MISSING THAT FRIEND FROM HIGH SCHOOL THAT LIVES NEARBY? MAKE IT A POINT TO MEET OVER COFFEE OR A MEAL AND CATCH UP WITH YOUR LOVED ONE. RECONNECTING WILL MAKE YOUR WEEK HOME EVEN BETTER.

IN SAN DIEGO:

SAN DIEGO ZOO:

HEAD ON OVER TO BALBOA PARK TO VISIT THE WORLD FAMOUS SAN DIEGO ZOO. VISIT THE NEWBORN GIRAFFE, TAKE A LOOK AT THE NEW AUSTRALIAN OUTBACK EXHIBIT, OR WATCH THE PLAYFUL MONKEYS INTERACT WITH THE OTTERS SWIMMING BELOW THEM. CHECK OUT THE UC BOX OFFICE FOR DISCOUNTED TICKETS.

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CHECK OUT A CRUISE ON THE PACIFIC OCEAN THAT OFFERS SIGHTS OF PACIFIC GRAY WHALES FROM DEC.-APRIL. THE TOURS ARE NARRATED BY MARINE BIOLOGISTS AND THERE ARE THREE HOUR-DAY CRUISES AND SUNSET CRUISES AVAILABLE THAT WILL GIVE AMAZING VIEWS OF THE MAJESTIC WHALES AS THEY HEAD SOUTH TO MEXICO.

ARTS & CULTURE

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“The Vagina Monologues” impacts women’s issues

By Audry Beck
CONTRIBUTOR

In a small, compact room in the very back corner of Camino Hall, the all-female ensemble took the stage and one single actress stepped forward. She looked at the audience, took a seat and began talking about vaginas. The initial announcement of the topic may have caught some audience members off guard, but by the third or fourth utterance of the word, the audience was more or less accustomed to it.

Throughout the play, the monologues continuously reminded viewers that the vagina is a vital feature of the female anatomy. The play sets out to question why it is that a scientific term for a body part has become such an inappropriate word, especially since half of the population has one. This negative connotation attached to the word is one of the main reasons why

senior Erin Dellorso and junior Sophie Wood felt compelled to direct this play.

Dellorso and Wood wanted to direct The Vagina Monologues because they firmly believe in the play’s message and they wanted to share these empowering stories with the USD community.

The Vagina Monologues is a compilation of real-life stories told by women of all ages and ethnicities. It details the struggles that come living as a female living in a male dominated society. Published in 1996, The Vagina Monologues is a book by Eve Ensler that sheds light on the mistreatment of women.

This production of the Monologues was a watershed moment for USD because it marked the first time that the school was able to host this performance. There has never before been a production of the Vagina Monologues on our campus, large part due to the controversial subjects

addressed in the play.

For the past 15 years, colleges across America have been staging productions of The Vagina Monologues but USD never got on board, until now. USD is a Roman Catholic school and the themes and issues brought up in the play may be seen as conflicting with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Issues such as premarital sex, masturbation and homosexuality inevitably clash with church doctrine. However, it is a misconception that the play is vulgar or inappropriate because in reality, the play addresses key issues that must be discussed whether they are considered to be taboo or not.

Just because the play repeatedly uses the word “vagina,” does not mean that it is morally indecent. Ensler repeats the term because it is her hope that by doing so, she will be able to empower women. It is understandable that people may have preconceived notions about the play because of the

provocative title, but when looking at the content and the subject matter, it becomes clear that these stories are advantageous for women. The play was both moving and funny at the same time and there were moments when the entire audience couldn’t help but to burst out laughing.

Lauren Fisher was one of the actresses and she feels strongly about the issues that the play focuses on. When asked what the play meant to her, Fisher explained how the play made her realize how important it is to talk about things that are too often swept under the rug.

“It was shocking that it took two months for me and the rest of the cast to get comfortable talking about vaginas,” Fisher said. “It is just another body part and I’m not sure why we are so insecure about it, but the fact that we don’t talk about it more, is what I find to be really devastating.”

Fisher discusses an important

point; it is interesting that society is not more open to discussing problems that women face such as rape, violence and abuse.

The cast did have to discuss very challenging issues, and in doing so, they stimulated the audience and helped to inspire everyone who was watching: men and women alike.

It was a night to remember and audiences are unlikely will forget the premiere performance of The Vagina Monologues. Hopefully, this will begin a tradition in which the Monologues will be met with open arms, because it does address issues that need to be discussed.

By bringing the Vagina Monologues to USD the Theater Department, the directors, and the cast have staged a progressive and powerful play, bringing the university one step closer to becoming a more understanding and accepting community.

Creative Writing

By Natalie Earnhart
CONTRIBUTOR

Name: Natalie Earnhart

Year: Junior

What type of piece this is: Discursive Poem

Why I write: I wanted to write about my experience visiting an extermination camp in Austria. I was about 16 when i went, which was 10 years ago, yikes! But it’s an experience I’ve never forgotten. A discursive poem is the personal vs. the historical so I felt like it was meant to be written about in this way

Mauthausen: What Illuminated Me

What illuminated me, was the walk to the furnace
I had never before, seen such a sight, or wondered
What it was like, to see orbs and not think them refraction
Of light, or dust, but who is to really say what they are, or were
But just bodies waiting to be burned, waiting for the inferno

As we all know what an inferno is—right? Such a place
Only exists to ignite us, to make us feel so just in our complaints
But what it really is/was, a place to burn. Which no one would know
What it is to burn. Or what it was to watch your aunt become ashes
Before you could ask about light refraction and what they were saying
In german.

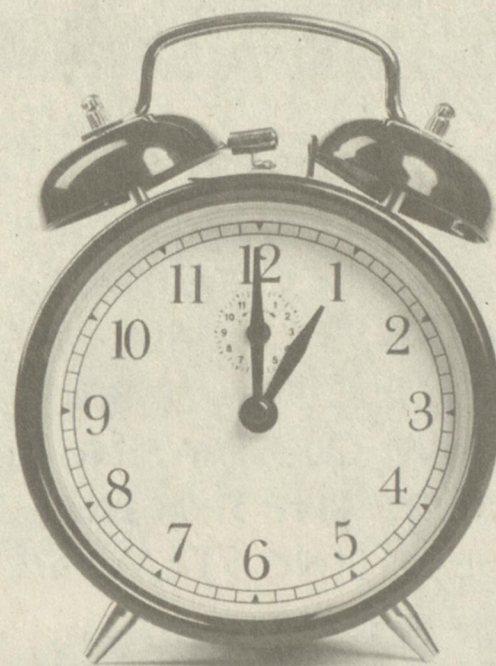
But you were, we are—in Austria and so now it’s a new dialect
But there are words that still don’t make sense, like “jew” or “gentile”
But you thought of gentle, but the jutted walls around you thought differently.
They thought, sharp edges, no refinement, but the irony was not lost on you.
Really bricks put before you, by your relatives, to be relatively struck by juxtaposition

Or struck by your skull. Or the skull of your half-brother, maybe cousins.
Something about the Gestapo taking refuge in the women’s den. Where they piled
Upon each other like 30 mice in a plastic cage. Running for life or the middle distance but middle distance was really only a spinning wheel. Where you thought
Your circles were digging holes into which you might escape. But the ashes of your
Aunts said that you were really—digging their graves.

In the same grass where they dug live stone that seemed as real as Zelda.
Walking up impossible flights. A mis-step was common and making it was unacceptable. One foot in front of the other meant that you were really too Well fed. So you should cut your ration of porridge because german sausages Are very uncomfortable with threat.

The stairway of death was not meant as a challenge but rather a guaranteed Way to watch tetris fail of nutrition. Blocks don’t connect because people are losing shape. Constantly. And the music ceases to sound. Even though, the whistling of the meadows sang in chorus, like a blues theme—unfamiliar with the accordion.

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Writers needed!

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ARTS & CULTURE

11

The Casbah host up and coming electronic artists

*Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr. and Chad Valley perform in San Diego*By Gloria Gaona-Hernandez
CONTRIBUTOR

There is a sentiment as intimate as the history of a song that emanates from the Casbah. It is a small, but powerful venue. It is the Fenway Park of San Diego music institutions: unsanitary, outdated, flooded, historic. But what it may lack in modernity it protects with quality, and allows locals the right to pay homage to a vastness of underground music.

This was the case with Chad Valley and Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr., who, in contrast with the March rainy day setting, played upbeat electronic pop. Chad Valley (Hugo Manuel) is a singular inspiration on record, but in person he was a duet of palatable prowess when he partnered with Telexite frontwoman Pamela Martinez to bring tastes of ambient drinking tunes.

Both vocalists of Chad Valley were skillfully brilliant but somehow became lost among the bustle of their instruments. Perhaps it was the enclosed acoustics or the Casbah itself, but their voices turned to stone for an audience open to listening. Chad Valley provided us an eagerness for dance but in turn left us with the willingness to check out early for a break.

I was in unfamiliar shoes because I am a fan of Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr. I have been covering their tracks since the band's earliest basement releases and first full-length album, "It's A Corporate World". After listening to the album, one could see the progression, and more importantly, the influences within their new record, "The Speed of Things".

John Epstein (vocals, keyboards, saxophone) and Daniel Zott (vocals, guitar), hail from Detroit and let their hometown direct their stylistic rhythm. Their sound is indie pop with a mix of R&B, Motown and more recently, Disco, which played well for a young hipster crowd looking for a dance-feel event.

Although Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr. may not be destined for stardom, it would be a lie to say they are starving

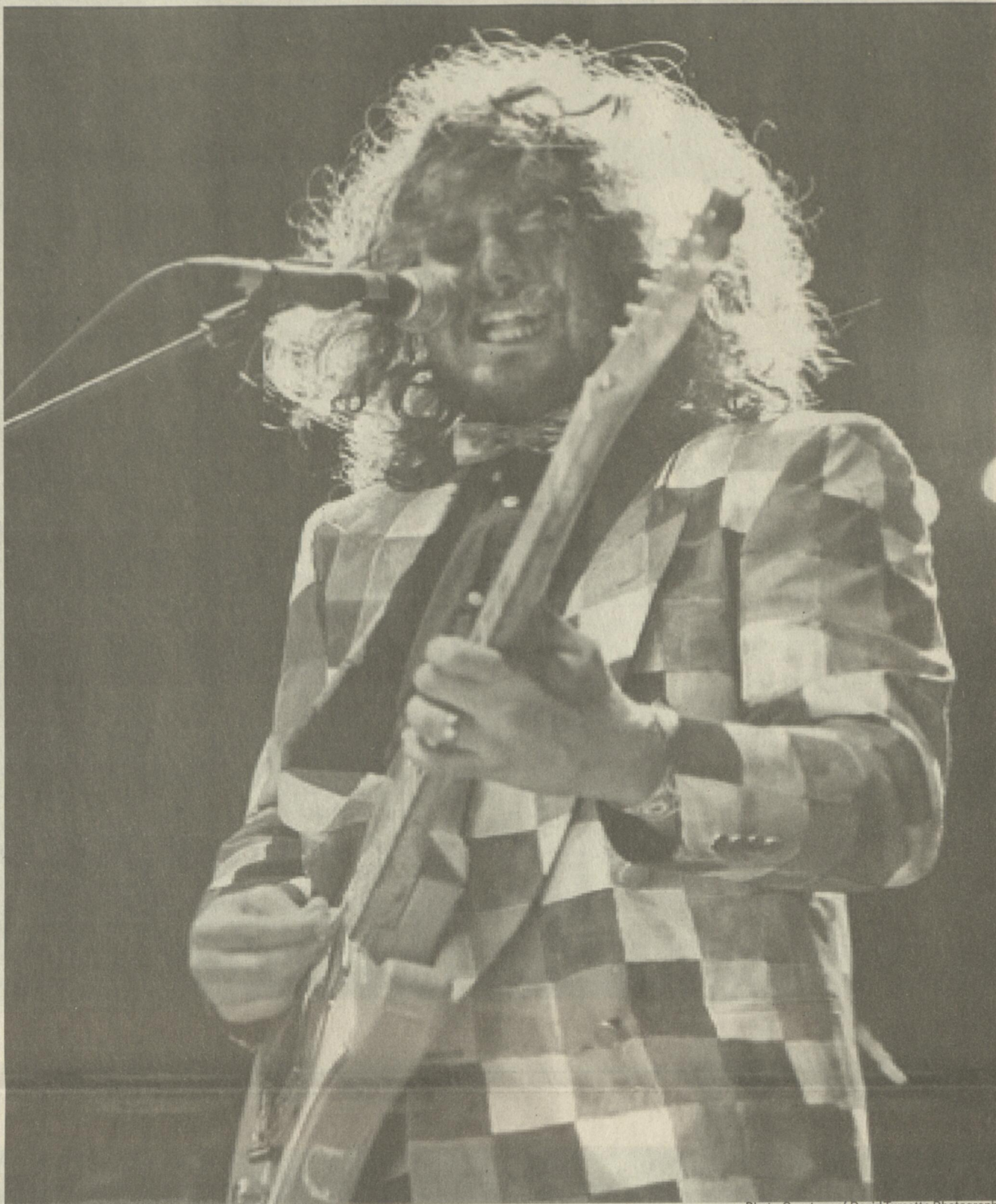


Photo Courtesy of David Turcotte Photography

for pop sensibility.

The band opened up with an energetic, harmonic collection of songs that revamped a rather indifferent crowd. With covers of Rod Stewart and The Beach Boys, it is evident Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr. appreciates both past and present. They are the intersection, and we are the stoplights. It was our enthusiasm that mattered the most, and somehow it was lost.

The tunes "Mesopotamia" and "An Ugly Person on the Movie Screen" were gratifying for the audience, accompanied by captivating animations of legos and cavemen projected on an enormous white ball among on the backdrop.

Human sized alphabet letters made of multi-colored light bulbs would boldly turn off and on, specifically according to the bass guitar and drum beats.

The band itself was surprised that they could huddle all of their props on the stage, a scene which the audience vividly enjoyed.

At the forefront, the band introduced the crowd to its artisanship by incorporating shouts of "na na na" into its chorus of "An Ugly Person on the Movie Screen." This pushed involvement and led many to commence their own renditions of disco dancing and sing-alongs.

It was only appropriate that their stage exit was followed by an encore and bevy of whistles and recall. The band returned with the classics "Nothing But Our Love" and "If You Didn't See Me (You Weren't On The Dancefloor)" that left us ready to move our way through the rain.

Funny enough, Epstein looks and acts much like Jimmy Fallon, while Zott like a LMFAO spinoff. Both characters are classic examples of most Detroit musicians whose appearances perhaps outshine their musicianship.

Either way it is undeniable the band has reached greater heights without necessarily reaping the reward.

Epstein has taken notice of such a notion, mentioning that "although the crowds get bigger, the stage still stays the same" said Epstein. Perhaps it is their name that hinders their mass appeal.



Photo Courtesy of Reverbnation

Daily Grind is gaining popularity in alternative rock

*Pittsburg based band is attracting audiences all over the US*By Chelsea McLin
CONTRIBUTOR

The alternative rock scene is growing more popular by the minute, and it's a struggle for new bands to make their mark on the world. The Daily Grind seems to be up for the challenge.

Based in Pittsburg, PA, The Daily Grind is branching out from their hometown and doing a nationwide tour in over 50 different states. The band took a minute to tell The Vista a little bit about themselves, the tour, and plans for the future.

The Vista: Your band is based in Pittsburgh, how did you all come together to form the Daily Grind?

Daily Grind: We met in Oakland at an apartment on Pitt's campus in the summer of 2012. A couple months later we played "Under the Bridge" by The Red Hot Chili Peppers in our friend's basement. We've been jamming ever since.

TV: Where did the name Daily Grind come from?

DG: We were literally flipping through Dr. Seuss books in my basement trying to pick band names because we couldn't find one. Luckily our bassist asked, "Hey, dude. What do we all have in common?" We all said that I guess we all go through the daily grind together. We just felt we could work with that.

TV: What inspires your music? Are there any specific bands that interest you?

DG: The big name bands we like the most are the ones we strive to be similar to like The Black Keys. We all have an interest for hip hop right now. We're trying to make our songs more cutting edge.

TV: What has been your biggest challenge making music? How does your creative process work?

DG: Wow, I've never been asked that question before. Well, I'll come in with a riff or a hook and share the idea I had. I'm pretty much an open book. We'll take what we have and

work something out. It's definitely a collaborative writing process – not just one person writes the songs.

TV: What's it like to be doing a nationwide tour? Is there a place you're looking forward to going to most?

DG: We're looking forward to the California dates most. It's pretty daunting. We've never even done the whole weekend warrior thing where we play at a few venues just for a couple of days. This is us diving head in. It's scary, but exciting. We can't just pass on this opportunity like this.

TV: What makes your band special? How do you stand out from the rest?

DG: We don't feel separate from the everyday person. I think that's our biggest focus. We want everyone to like our music and just have a good time. Maybe that's what sets us apart. We don't have the arrogance. We don't think we're this amazing rock band that everyone to listen to. If you like our music, that's great. If you don't, then we're going to keep doing it.

TV: DO you have any advice for



Photo Courtesy of Reverbnation

aspiring bands?

DG: If you love playing music, just do it. Don't ask questions. Don't let people keep you down or tell you no. Things are finally starting to pick up for us. At first, people would say "Why are you doing this?" "This is dumb." "Go back to school. Get a degree." They wanted us to do all

these real world things. Now that we're becoming successful people say, "Oh I believed in you the whole time." I think once you get past people looking down on you, you can do what you love. You just got to focus above all of it. If you love it, do it.

The Daily Grind will be in San Diego on Apr. 28 at Brick by Brick.

ARTS & CULTURE

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The Wolf of Wall Street shows dark side of success

The Oscar nominated film questions capitalist values

By John Barnum
CONTRIBUTOR

Life is a competition. Some people feel that success is when you help people and make their life a better one. But, others feel that success depends on the materialistic possessions one has. Financial success refers to the cars, the women, the private jets, the yachts, the mansions and everything and anything money can buy.

The challenging aspect of financial success is not knowing how to handle it. At least that is what the film "The Wolf of Wall Street" portrays as it delves into the life of American stockbroker Jordan Belfort.

The film is based on the true story of Jordan Ross Belfort, played by Leonardo DiCaprio, chronicling his struggles and experiences as a former stockbroker. Belfort was born in Queens, NY, on July 9, 1962. He was said to have a talent in sales at an early age. Belfort began selling stocks in 1987 for

a company specializing in penny stocks. Belfort converted this small insignificant company into a powerful stockbroker company called Stratton Oakmont. While he assured his investors they were making the right decision by investing in the company,

Belfort was making millions illegally. The Securities Exchange Commission was suspicious of Stratton Oakmont and began an investigation on Belfort. He was accused of money laundering and security fraud, to which he pleaded guilty in 2003. He was then sentenced to four years in prison but served only 22 months.

DiCaprio and Jonah Hill are partners in crime throughout the movie, from strategizing about the company, all the way to abusing drugs and alcohol to an unconscious level.

The scenes were portrayed in



Photo Courtesy of Ma_Co2013

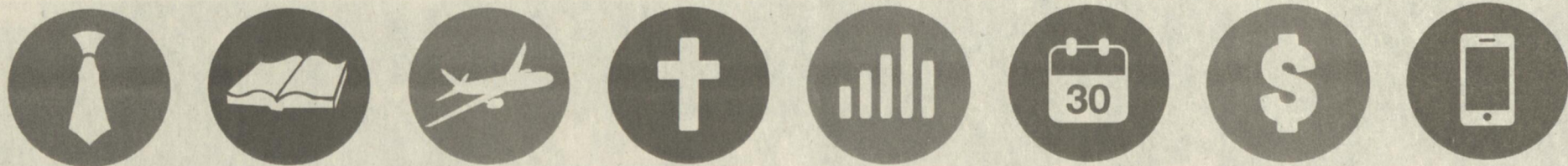
a very graphic way during sexual intercourse and either abusing drugs at the time or being under the influence. The combination of sexual intercourse and drug abuse scenes portrayed the influences of the era.

Senior Gian Sonza shared his take on the film, "It tells the story of greed and ambition in a compelling way that captivates its audience through the everyday temptations of life" Sonza said. A similar opinion was shared by Senior Iris Vildosola, "The movie is a paradigm of the 21st century, giving the audience a glimpse of the society we live in," said Vildosola. "Yet, it illustrates the power of money while putting in light the consequences of greed."

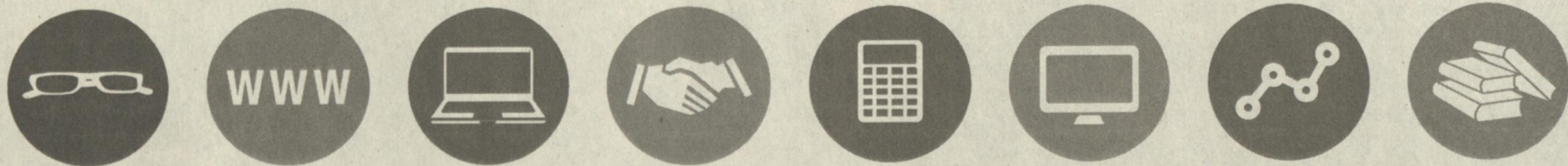
The film focuses on Belfort's infidelity to his wife, drug abuse and fraudulent activities. It demonstrates how living life in the fast lane can only last a certain amount of time. When involved in fraudulent activity it is only a matter of time until the individual is caught. Not only is it a matter of being accused of running an illegal business, but also the consequences of selfishness. DiCaprio is constantly abusing drugs, specifically cocaine in order to be alert when making important decisions regarding Stratton Oakmont. The misuse of cocaine causes Belfort to lose control of not only his personal issues, but also his company.

The film does a good job portraying the effects of wrong decisions in the competitive industry of Wall Street. "The Wolf of Wall Street" has scored five Academy Award nominations. Most notably the film is nominated for the category of "Best Picture," and DiCaprio is nominated for "Lead Actor."

The extreme measures Belfort was willing to go to for praise and status landed him a place in prison. The key to success is not the material possessions that are obtained along the way, but learning how to manage it.



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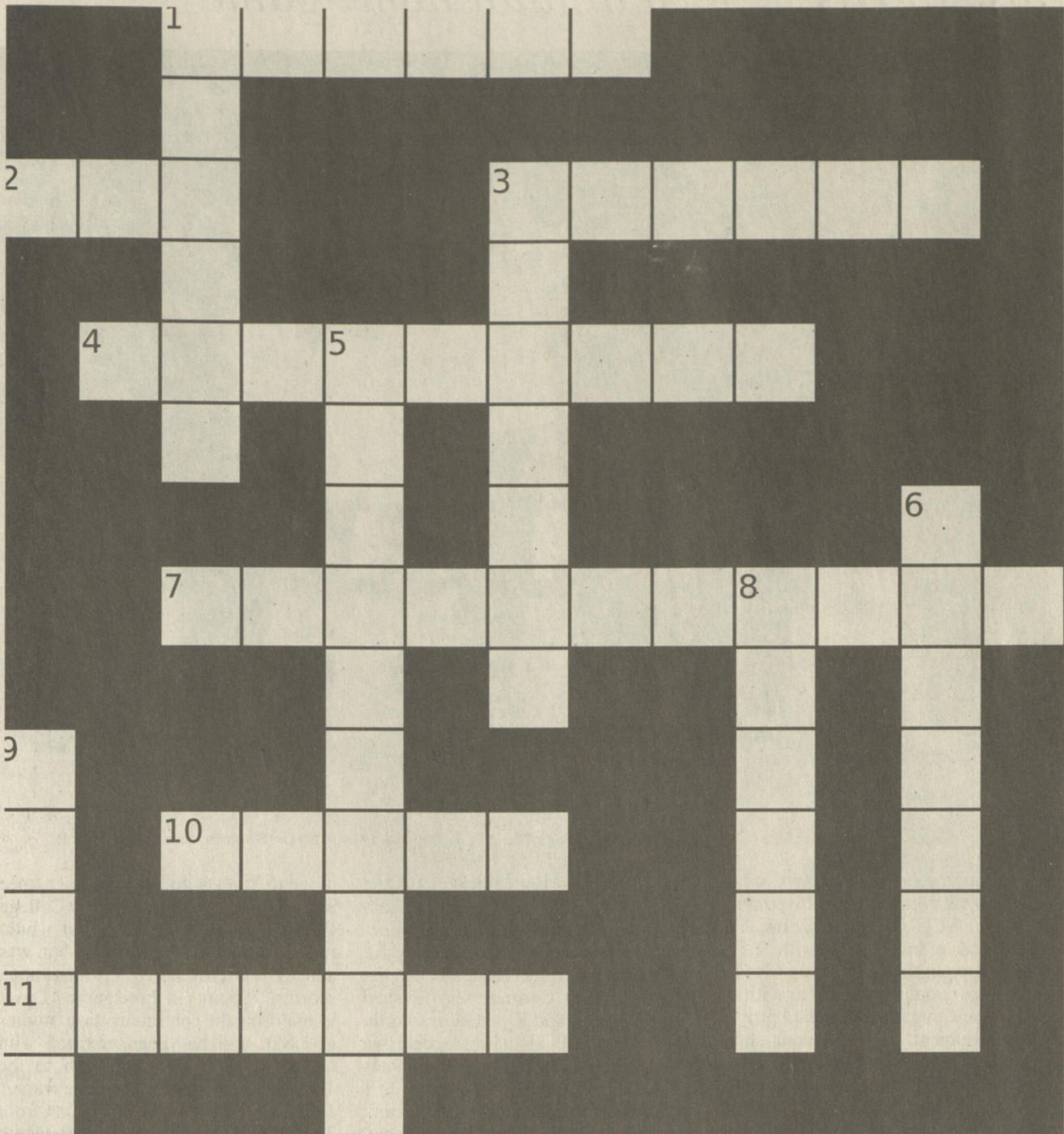
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Vacation Puzzle



By: Anastasia Macdonald
Asst. Editor Arts & Culture

- Across
- Down
1. Vacation on a boat

2. After sun exposure

3. Open summer shoe

4. Protect from the sun

7. Week long vacation during spring semester

10. Rest

11. Round brown fruit
1. Popular vacation city in eastern Mexico

3. Riding the waves

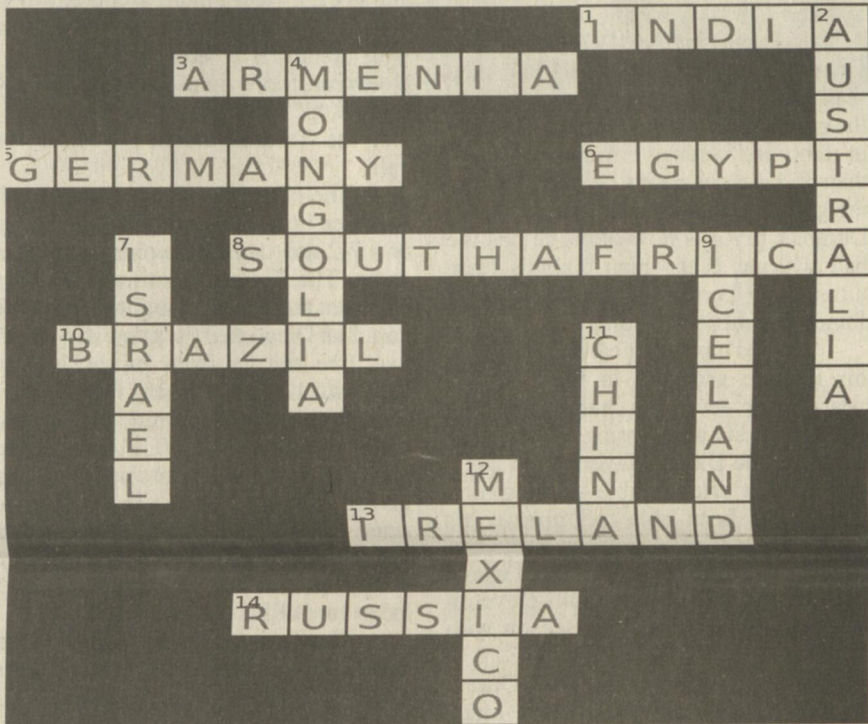
5. Swimming with fish

6. Traveling in a boat

8. Home to tourists

9. Land meets Ocean

Answers to last week's crossword



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 3.6.14.

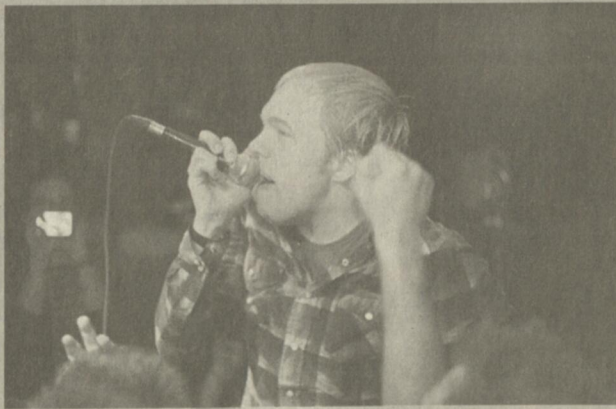


image by Hroyer/wikimedia commons

The Ataris - So Long, Astoria Reunion
Details: The Ataris, Authority Zero, Versus the World

House of Blues San Diego
San Diego, CA
Fri, 03/07/14
06:00 PM

Ghost Town with Feel Good

House of Blues San Diego
San Diego, CA
Thu, 03/06/14
06:30 PM

2014 Country Megaticket
Sleep Train Amphitheatre, Chula Vista



image by Russavia/wikimedia commons

Lady Antebellum
Tim McGraw
Brad Paisley



image by GeeJo/wikimedia commons

Multiple
Dates and
Times

Dierks Bentley
Rascal Flatts
Blake Shelton



image by Netframe2020/wikimedia commons

Billy Connolly

Balboa Theatre San Diego
Tue, 03/11/14
08:00 PM



image by Liffan/wikimedia commons

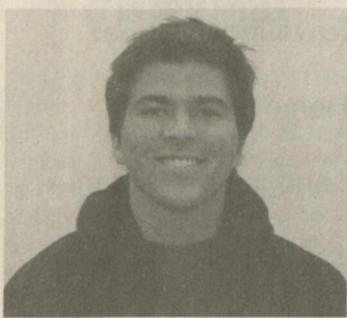
Kasai Karatechi/The VISTA

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heating upBy Hunter Jameson
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Lebron James has been in the spotlight of the NBA for the last five seasons now. He has taken home four Most Valuable Player Awards, two time NBA Champion and Finals MVPs in both of the Championships. Kevin Durant is giving James a run for his money this season, leading the league in points per game by nearly four points over the next highest scorer.

Durant has been at a disadvantage all season with fellow teammate Russell Westbrook out for most of the season with an injury. James has NBA All Stars Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh by his side, but undoubtedly carries the team on a nightly basis.

In regards to the MVP race, I think Durant is more valuable to his team than James. If you take Durant out of the game, there is an obvious difference in temp and offensive firepower, more than if James were to be taken out of the game. Another aspect that plays in Durant's favor is how often he has the ball. Durant is the man that his team turns to 99 percent of the time, while James has more weapons.

James has significantly improved his outside shooting in the last few years after receiving harsh criticism from analysts after losing in the NBA Finals to the Dallas Mavericks in 2011. With teams often double-teaming him, James has been able to improve his court vision and passing as well. His assists per game have developed every season, and he currently ranks eleventh in the NBA in assists this season with 6.4.

Some might think that Durant doesn't pass the ball very much because of how much he scores, but the numbers don't lie. He is tied for 19th in the NBA in assist with 5.6 per game, so the argument is invalid. Lebron James ranks third in the league in points per game with 27.5, making the current MVP very hard to decipher. I think the MVP will be decided by which player is more dominant at the end of the season, and which team is projected to win the Finals. There are so many factors that play into the voting process besides leading the NBA in scoring. Durant has led the League in points per game the past two seasons, but not won an MVP.

James just scored 61 points on Monday, really helping his cause for MVP at the end of the season. Durant went on a ridiculous scoring stretch earlier in the season, so James needed to do something legendary. Unfortunately, Carmelo Anthony has already scored 62 points this season, so James can't even say that he has scored the most points in a game this season. Not many players can say they've scored more than 60 points, so this is an accomplishment to be proud of. Kobe Bryant's 81 point game and Wilt Chamberlain's 100 will be hard to top.

Sadly for Carmelo, the New York Knicks are horrible this season, so the team success factor will not help his cause at all. He is literally the only player who has performed for the Knicks all season. Anthony is averaging 28.0 points per game and 8.5 rebounds per game. There are many other players who are having fantastic seasons for their respective teams, but do not get the same recognition as Durant and Lebron. Kevin Love of the Minnesota Timberwolves is averaging 26.6 points and 13.2 rebounds per game. Love has four games with over 40 points and 15 rebounds, so his statistics are on par with James and Durant. Paul George of the Indiana Pacers and James Harden are also deserving of being on the MVP ballot.

In the end, I expect Kevin Durant to win the MVP because the voters will respect his consistency and ability to carry his team through adversity. Even when Westbrook returned a few weeks ago, from his injury the team did not perform as well compared to when it was just Durant controlling the offense. James will come in second, and Anthony will finish in third. I am anxious to see if the Heat or Thunder will lose before the NBA Championship. The Portland Trail Blazers and Indiana Pacers will have something to say about that.

Men's Basketball honors seniors
*Toreros lose to BYU 78-70 in final home game*By Ryan Hand
CONTRIBUTOR

The Torero men's basketball team fell to the BYU Cougars 78-70 on Saturday afternoon at the Jenny Craig Pavilion in front of a crowd of nearly 4,000. This was the final regular season home game for the Toreros, who were hoping a win over the Gonzaga Bulldogs a week prior would provide some momentum for their matchup with the Cougars. Despite a strong second half comeback, the Toreros were outlasted by BYU. Unfortunately for the Toreros, the loss took place on senior day. The team recognized its three seniors, Dennis Kramer, Michael "MJ" Marconi and Mike Davis before the game.

Saturday's game began as a close contest, with the Toreros leading 12-11 five minutes into the game. However, the Cougars gained control of the first half with a 14-1 run over the next three minutes. With just under 12 minutes left in the half, the Toreros trailed 25-13.

San Diego trailed by as many as 16 points in the first half, but managed to keep the game close at the break, going on an 8-0 run late in the half. The team picked up some momentum and got the crowd more involved when Jito Kok threw down an alley-oop with about five minutes remaining. However, more lights out shooting by BYU kept the Cougars at a distance, and the Toreros trailed 41-33 at the half.

The Toreros came out much stronger in the second half, beginning on a 7-2 run to make it a one-possession game. The Cougars continued to shoot well, but the Toreros fought to close the gap. San Diego tied the game at 47 with two free throws from junior Johnny Dee with 12:36 remaining in the game. Freshman forward Brett Bailey hit a three-pointer with 10:53 left on the clock, putting the Toreros up 50-47 and giving them their first lead in the game since going up 12-11 early in the first half. However, this lead would quickly disappear when BYU's Matt Carlino hit a three of his own shortly after.

The Toreros would take the lead again on a three-pointer from Chris Anderson, who had a career-high 22 points, putting San Diego up 56-54. Sophomore Jito Kok put the Toreros up 58-56 with another jam with just under eight minutes remaining, which would turn out to be San Diego's final lead of the game.

BYU pulled away with more



Kevin Nelson/The Vista

Torero Men's basketball honored their senior players during Senior Night last Saturday versus BYU. (Seniors from Left to Right)

solid shooting from Tyler Haws, who finished with a game high 25 points. Haws, the WCC's leading scorer, hit a three and a free throw with 2:55 remaining to put the Cougars up 67-60. The Toreros would get back to within two, but the Cougars lead would prove to be permanent. A three-point shot from Kyle Collinsworth with a minute and a half left in the game served as insurance points for BYU, as they cruised to a 78-70 victory over the Toreros.

The high point of the game for San Diego was the performance of junior guard Chris Anderson, who matched his career-high with 22 points. Anderson also became the school's all-time leader in assists with 527. Anderson was named USD's player of the game. Guard Dee contributed 12 points, and Kok posted a double-double scoring 10 points and bringing down 10 rebounds. Senior forward Dennis Kramer saw a significant amount of playing time in his final game at the Jenny Craig Pavilion, finishing the game with seven points and eight rebounds.

The Cougars showcased effective

three-point shooting throughout the game. BYU shot 56.3 percent from three, hitting nine of their 16 three-point attempts. Haws led the way for the Cougars with 25. The team also got help from Matt Carlino, who finished with 14 points, and Kyle Collinsworth, who scored 10, including a decisive three-pointer with under two minutes left in the game.

Of the three seniors on the team, Kramer was the only one who saw any action in Saturday's game. Kramer played his high school ball at La Costa Canyon in Encinitas, Calif. He played on the USD basketball team for four years and will finish his career as a Torero with over 800 points and nearly 500 rebounds. Kramer will graduate from USD with a degree in accounting.

Also recognized by the Toreros on senior day were Mike Davis and MJ Marconi. Davis played two years at Texas Tech before ultimately transferring to USD.

The Toreros recruited Davis out of high school but he originally chose to stay close to home and attend Texas Tech. However, after a coaching change, Davis decided to make the

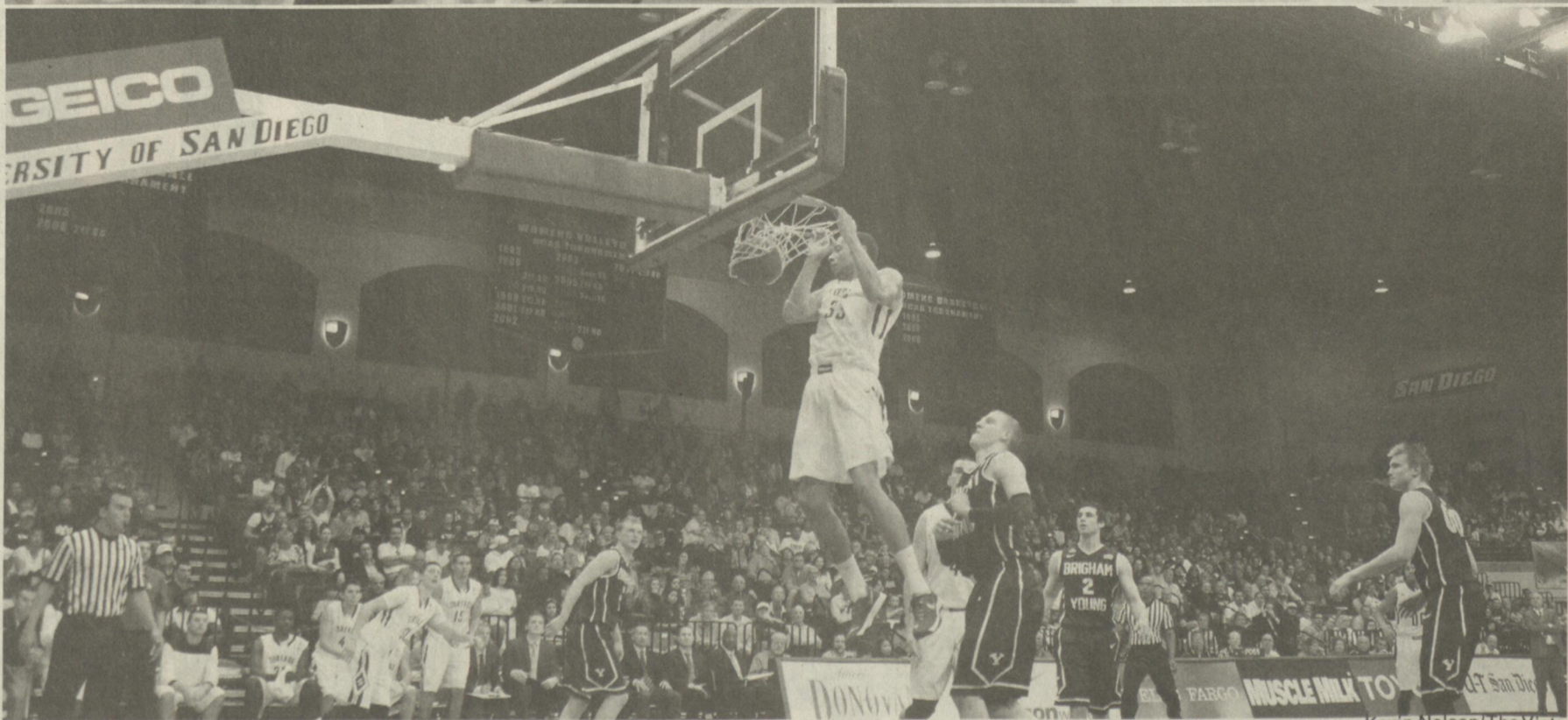
move to San Diego. He suffered a knee injury against Saint Mary's College Gaels in January of 2013 that would require arthroscopic surgery, but was able to return for the WCC tournament, scoring 19 points in three games. Davis is majoring in communication studies at USD, and has been credited with adding a great deal of depth to the Toreros bench since joining the team.

MJ Marconi, a walk-on from Tustin, Calif., played at Servite High School before coming to USD. He contributed a basket in a huge win over Pacific on Dec. 10 this season. Marconi walked on to the team as a senior, a rare and impressive accomplishment.

Next up for the Toreros is the WCC tournament in Las Vegas, Nev. They open up the tournament against the University of San Francisco Dons on Saturday, Mar. 8. USD enters the tournament as the No. 6 seed, with USF landing the No. 3 seed. The winner of the tournament earns an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. Despite Saturday's loss to BYU, the Toreros have won three of their last four games and are hoping to earn their first NCAA tournament bid since 2008.



Photo Courtesy of Cara Brown



Kevin Nelson/The Vista

Top: Toreros #1 Johnny Dee drives past a BYU defender. Bottom: Toreros #33 Jito Kok gets past the BYU defense for a dunk during the second half of the BYU game.

USD Baseball off to second best start in school history

Conyers, Conlon and Joe receive national recognition

By Hunter Jameson
SPORTS EDITOR

The USD baseball team is off to its second best start in school history at 8-2. The Toreros joined the top 25 rankings this week for the first time this season, with a No. 24 rank according to the Collegiate baseball top-30 poll. The USD Tournament this past weekend had to deal with a large amount of rain, so the games did not go as planned.

The Toreros took on the Baylor Bears, with sophomore pitcher Troy Conyers on the mound. The Baylor offense had been very efficient in the last few months, so Conyers had to bring his best baseball; which he did. Conyers took a no-hitter into the sixth inning, and helped the Toreros defeat the Bears 8-0. With the shutout, the Toreros became the first team to hold the Bears scoreless in nearly two years.

Redshirt sophomore Ben Wyll got the Torero offense rolling in the bottom of the second inning with a double, scoring freshman Hunter Mercado-Hood. USD didn't let up, scoring four more runs in the bottom of the eighth inning, which capped off the dominating win. Second Baseman Austin Bailey led the Torero offense, going three for four at the plate and also scoring twice.

Conyers finished with eight strikeouts while only allowing one hit. Freshman CJ Burdick got some valuable experience on the mound in the final two innings. He also found success against the Bears offense, only allowing two hits and recording two strikeouts.

In their next game of the tournament, the Toreros went up against Pac-12 opponent UC-Berkeley Bears. With a seven game winning streak on the line and recent superstar pitcher Louie Lechich on the mound, USD was in a great position. The Cal Bears would not go down without a fight, and ultimately beat the Toreros 5-2.

Lechich went 5 and 1/3 innings and gave up five runs on six hits. Centerfielder Devin Pearson had 2

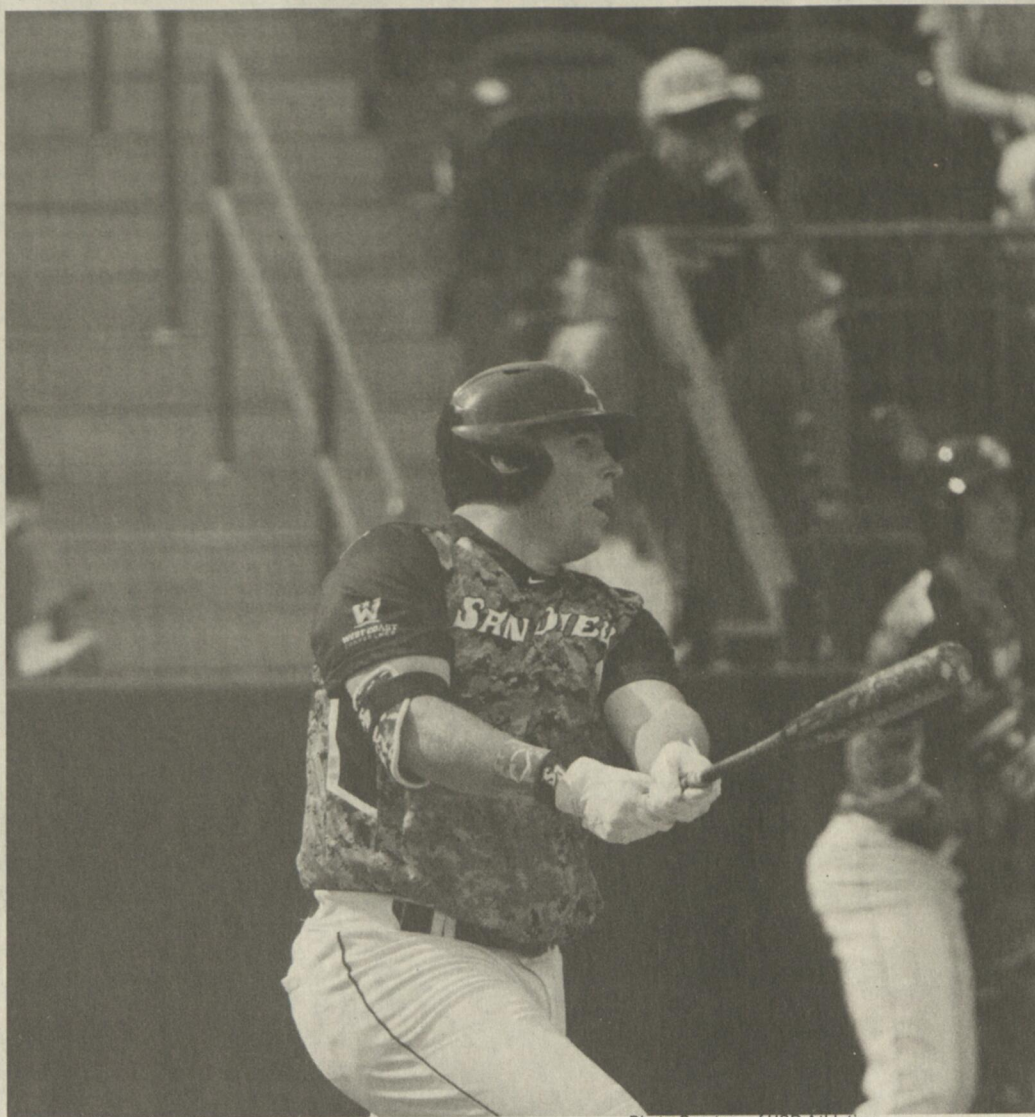


Photo Courtesy of USD Athletics

Left: Sophomore Troy Conyers watches the ball in flight after a hit during the Toreros game versus New Mexico. Right: The Torero baseball team prepares to take the field in a game against New Mexico earlier this season. The team is off to its second best start in school history going 8-2 in their first 10 games.

RBIs while going 1-3 for the Bears. The Bears scored five runs in the third inning, including RBI singles by Derek Campbell and Nick Halamandaris. Junior pitcher Lucas Long came in relief for Lechich and was able to shut down the Bears offense in the final three innings, but the USD comeback was not enough.

Junior infielder Andrew Daniel kept his 10-game hitting streak alive with a hit against the Bears. He is the only player left to have a hit in every game so far this season. Daniel has adopted the role as cleanup hitter, which is the fourth batter in the lineup

and has not let the team down.

Heading into the USD offense has been on fire in the first 10 games, leading the nation in team batting average (.365) and runs scored (10.7). The Toreros are also second in slugging percentage (.554) and third in on base percentage (.448).

Multiple Toreros have been receiving national honors in the last few weeks. Conyers was awarded West Coast Conference Rawlings Pitcher of the Week with his performance against the Baylor Bears. Sophomore pitcher PJ Conlon was named to the Louisville Slugger third-team

preseason All-American. He finished his freshman year with a 9-1 record and was an undefeated 6-0 against WCC opponents. Conlon was the first freshman in USD history to start his career 9-0. He is currently 2-0 this season.

Junior catcher Connor Joe was also named a Louisville Slugger third-team preseason All-American. Last season, Joe tallied seven home runs and 43 RBIs while maintaining a .319 batting average. He was also named a Cape Cod All Star during his summer baseball season.

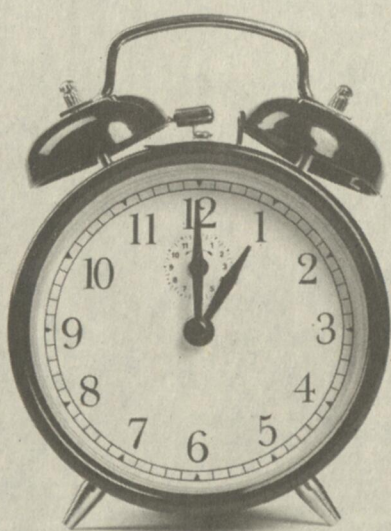
In the next 10 days, USD will play

against some of the best competition in the nation.

The Toreros travel to Stillwater, OK to play in a three game series against the No. 13 Oklahoma State Cowboys, according to the current official NCAA rankings. The series starts on Mar. 7th and the Cowboys are currently 10-2. On Mar. 11th the Toreros will play against the No. 4 ranked Cal State Fullerton Titans.

The Titans are a national powerhouse and are always competing for a national championship every year, so this type of competition will benefit the Toreros later in the season.

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Photos courtesy of Kevin Eaton

USD rugby gets rough against Long Beach

The Toreros move into first in their league with win at home

By Maya Arrieta
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

The USD rugby team clinched first place standing in their league last weekend on Saturday, Feb. 22 with a 12-8 win over Long Beach State University. The game was the team's last home game of the regular season, and was a chance for the team to recognize its many seniors.

This year's rugby team has been one of the best the school has seen in recent history, and is on pace to finish the season as league champions, a title USD hasn't achieved since 1993.

President of club rugby, senior Kevin Eaton, said that this team has been the most committed of any he has played on in his four years at USD. "Every single person on the team has put in the work to allow us to be this good," Eaton said. "We've had teams with better players in the past, but this is

the hardest the team has ever worked." The players' dedication has been one of the key factors in the success of this year's squad.

The team put in countless hours of practice, extra team workouts on weekend nights and adding tough road games to their schedule in order to get experience against better teams.

Senior captain Ryan Schott attributed much of the team's success to the bond that the players have developed over the years. "I think the most exciting part about this team is that the majority of us have been playing together for four years now, so we are all out there playing for each other," Schott said. "This was especially true in our last game as it came down to the wire and we were able to stay strong as a team throughout the match."

The game was a tough defensive matchup for the Toreros, with both teams remaining scoreless through the first half. Long Beach, who finished last season as league champion, boasted an

intimidating lineup and outweighed USD at almost every position. But the Toreros wanted the win.

"By playing tough, and being fearless, we played the game like we had the size advantage," Eaton said. "Guys played through pain and fatigue and it resulted in a win."

Although the Long Beach offense spent a good portion of the half in Torero territory, the USD defense played aggressively and held their opponent to just eight points through both halves.

The second half began with exciting momentum for San Diego, when junior Erik Straka blocked a Long Beach kick, preventing the 49ers from attempting to clear the ball.

This would have been a sure try for the Toreros, but an unlucky bounce put the ball back in the hands of the Long Beach offense.

Much of the game went back and forth between the two teams, with the ball switching hands countless times

throughout the fast-paced play, but the Toreros were able to overcome Long Beach for the win.

Schott and senior Brendan Burton both had standout games, with each scoring one of the team's two tries. Schott's try came with 30 minutes left to play, bringing the score to 7-3 and giving the Toreros their first lead of the game.

Long Beach managed to score again, but Burton scored to put USD ahead at 12-8. The Toreros then fought to keep Long Beach away from the goal line, keeping them scoreless for the rest of the game.

The Toreros are just three games away from the league championship. If they win the rest of their regular season games they will have the opportunity to host the playoffs for the first time in USD program history.

A home field advantage has been one of the most important things that has helped contribute greatly to the Toreros' success, and the team has

been grateful for the support they have received from the home crowd.

On a team with eleven seniors, winning the league championship this year would be especially important for the 2013-2014 team in leaving a lasting impression on USD's rugby history. "Winning the league is our chance as seniors to leave the school with a legacy," Eaton said.

The team doesn't have an easy path ahead of them leading up to the end of the season. Winning the league championship would mean beating Long Beach again, and this time there wouldn't be a guarantee of playing the match-up on the team's home turf.

USD was scheduled to face University of Southern California on Mar. 1, but inclement weather forced USC to cancel the game, which will be rescheduled in the next few weeks.

For the final game of the regular season, the Toreros will travel north to battle California State University Fullerton on Mar. 22.



Photos courtesy of Kevin Eaton